

Dack Found Alive and Well ■ A Closer Look at Coruscant ■ All about Oola

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**Mark
Hamill**

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Turn to Page 15 for a Peek at
Prequel Yoda!



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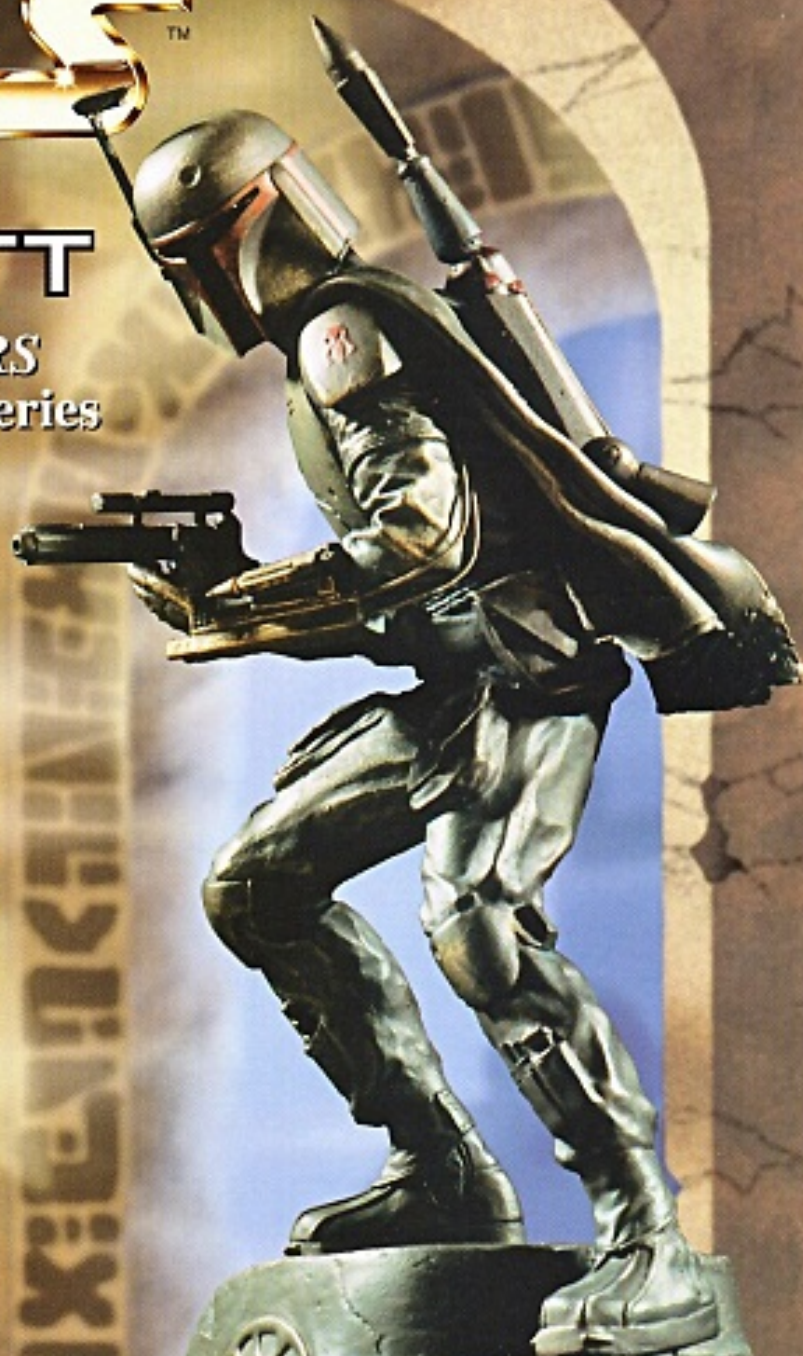
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A dynamic space battle scene set against the backdrop of a planet's blue and white horizon. In the upper right, a large Imperial Star Destroyer looms. The Millennium Falcon is prominently featured in the center, angled towards the left. Several TIE fighters are scattered throughout the scene, some firing red and green laser blasts. Rebel X-wing fighters are also visible, engaged in combat. The overall atmosphere is one of intense action.

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Illustration by Ross Kraiser

After tabulating the *Star Wars Insider*'s January reader's survey one response overshadowed the rest: over 88% of you would like to see the *Star Wars Insider* published bi-monthly or monthly instead of the current 4 times a year.

Consider it done. The *Star Wars Insider* will be publishing bi-monthly as of this fall. As the editor it's something I've wanted to do for a while— even though it doubles my workload. There is just too much going on in the world of *Star Wars* to fit into 4 issues a year.

For evidence of this look no further than your *Star Wars Insider* back issues. When I first started here in 1994 the magazine was barely 50 pages long. A year ago (issue #28) the magazine had grown to 64 pages with a 32 page catalog. Since then we've had to continually expand the magazine pages and shrink the catalog. Why? Because our readers demanded it. Now each issue is approximately 80 pages long with a 24 page catalog and there still isn't enough room to write about absolutely everything in the *Star Wars* universe that I'd like.

Of course now that we will be printing 6 issues a year we have had to raise the subscription price to \$19.95. I know, many of you may groan out there, but unlike most price increases we will actually be giving you something extra for your money— 6 issues a year instead of 4— which, at \$19.95, will be a savings of over \$7.00 off the newsstand price of \$4.50 an issue.

To say thank you to all of our current subscribers who made this possible we have a special offer where current members can renew for the next 60 days at 6 issues for the price of 4. That means you can renew your subscription for \$12.95 right now and get 6 bi-monthly issues of the *Insider*. You must mention the code "R34" when calling 1-800-TRUE FAN, or write "R34" on your check for mailed in renewals, to get this special offer.

We hope all our readers who have patiently waited for this increase in frequency are now satisfied. We look forward to bringing you better *Star Wars* news, and more of it, now that we are bi-monthly.

And speaking of *Star Wars* news, this issue has lots of it. Lucasfilm was nice enough to give us a sneak peek at the making of the new Yoda for the prequels. We also have a long awaited new exclusive interview with Mark Hamill, a wonderful piece on the planet Coruscant, and an interview with John "Dack" Morton, who was finally located after hundreds of readers wrote in response to our plea at the end of "Rebel Pilot Reunion" in issue #32.

Judging by how fast our new *Star Wars* beach towels sold last issue I trust all of you are having a relaxing summer. We'll see you in September with issue #35, a special Tatooine issue with articles on the lost footage of Biggs at Anchorhead, the cut Jedi sandstorm scene, and much more!

Jon Bradley Snyder
Editor in Chief

P.S. The *Insider* is going to feature a big article on the most popular characters in *Star Wars*. We want to hear from you! Let us know who your favorite character is and why. Is it Han Solo, Salacious Crumb, Dengar? You decide. Entries with extremely obscure *Star Wars* personalities welcome. Write to:

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Check out the official Star Wars web site:

www.starwars.com

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rebel rumblings

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Disarming Notion

The captivating, albeit, short article on the refurbishing of the wampa sequence for *The Empire Strikes Back: Special Edition* constitutes what great issues of the *Star Wars Insider* are made of! I consumed the five pages with all the voracity of the wampa itself! Lucas was definitely on top of things when he decided to make this nail-biting addition to an already dazzling movie experience. The audience's reaction upon seeing the wampa rise from his gory meal, shown during the trailer for *The Empire Strikes Back: Special Edition*, was testament to the scene's success: gasps, cheers, and the subtle sounds of awe filled the theater around me as the creature made its most revealing appearance in seventeen years.

As one local reviewer noted, in addition to exacerbating the audience's anxiety, the new footage also aids in highlighting the possible symbolic significance of the wampa's eventual dismemberment, courtesy of Luke's lightsaber. The similarity between the snow beast's fate at the film's beginning and Luke's own dismemberment at the film's end seems too uncanny to be ignored. In addition, the scene is also highly reminiscent of the sequence in *Star Wars* in which Obi-Wan "disarms" an unruly Cantina patron. Could it be that these similarities may be telling the discerning viewer something about aggression and the Force? Could it be that these scenes carry a recurring theme throughout the trilogy: that primal rage and anger is no match for the powers of the mind and soul, i.e., the force? Could it be that I've seen these movies one too many times? Hmmmmmmm?

Anyhow, the newly added munching, slurping, and crunching sounds in the enhanced wampa sequence were truly the icing on the cake; chilling!

Along with, I'm sure, a large percentage of *Star Wars Insider* readers, I'm also an avid fan of Lucas's other crowning achievements: the

Indiana Jones films. I'd love to see a few Indy based articles, factoids, interviews, etc., included in future issues.

Sam Asher Levy

Los Gatos, CA

Many readers wrote in lauding last issues wampa article by Athena Portillo. Apparently attention to the ice creature was long overdue. As for *Indiana Jones* in the *Insider*; we have recently added a whole page of Indy items to the Jawa Trader by popular demand, and we hope there will be more *Indiana Jones* news to report soon, but right now Lucasfilm is sharply focused on *Star Wars: Episode One* and the rest of the *Star Wars* prequels.

Impressive Costumes

I recently received Issue 33 of *The Star Wars Insider* not too long ago. I became a fan of *Star Wars* even before the *Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition* was released, but this was the first time I ever got your magazine. As I eagerly read the magazine, I saw the Star News section and noticed that in the various pictures in the article there were lots of die-hard *Star Wars* fans with amazingly realistic *Star Wars* costumes (for example, the fans in the flight suits on page 8). I think I speak for quite a few fans when I ask, "Do you know where the heck they got those costumes?" Is there some kind of catalog you need to get or store you need to go to, that I don't know about? I am virtually the only *Star Wars* fan in my entire school so I desperately need your response!

Vinny Fusco

Trumbull, CT

Vinny, the shocking truth is that most of those fans you saw in #33 made those costumes themselves. While Don Post Studios does make some terrific masks of *Star Wars* characters, when it comes to the rest of the outfits fans pretty much have to fend for themselves. The Rebel pilot outfits and Imperial officer uniforms are not available commercially. John Lieske's Boba Fett costume—

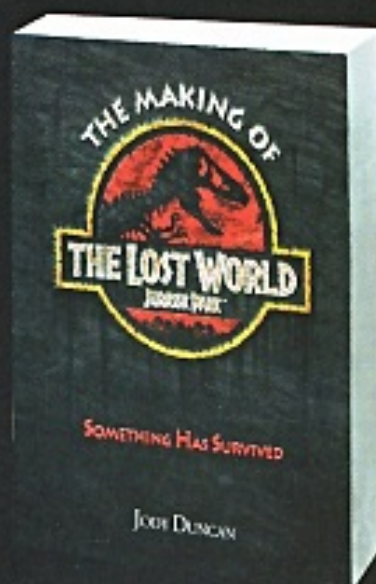
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OF *THE LOST WORLD: JURASSIC PARK*
WITH THE AUTHOR OF THE
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THE MAKING OF JURASSIC PARK!

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“I was wondering whether Coruscant was a creation of Timothy Zahn’s or George Lucas’?”

including the helmet— seen on page 12 in issue #33 was actually made by his own mother some 15 years ago. Better crank up that sewing machine!

Star Wars Generations

I have been a reader and an admirer of your magazine for over a year. I enjoyed seeing the “before screen” scenes of *Star Wars* that you published.

I am a 24 years old and have a son Tyler

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Jason & Tyler Meudt
Ingleside, IL

How Many Nodes in a Cantina?

I am concerned about Issue number 33. In the *Jawa Trader* on page 3, there are the five Cantina Band Members from Kenner. On the anniversary Toast poster there are six band members shown. I thought there were only five members. Is this a mistake made by the Kenner

Figgin’ D’an and the Modal Nodes. However two of the members play the same instrument, the long clarinet-like Fanfar. Since that meant there were just 5 different instruments for the 6 band members, Kenner and the Star Wars Fan Club decided to offer all 5 instruments with each figure and sell the figures in sets of five, technically enough to create a band, instead of forcing fans to buy more expensive sets of 6 figures. You can always get a sixth figure if you really want to be precise. For the record, here are the band members’ names and their instruments of choice: Figgin’ D’an (Kloo Horn), Dolk (Fizz), Tedn (Fanfar), Ickabel (Fanfar), Nolan (Bandfill), and Tech (Omni Box). For more on the band read Kathy Tyers’ “We Don’t Do Weddings: The Band’s Tale,” from the Tales from the Mos Eisley Cantina anthology.

Who created Coruscant?

I’ve seen the Special Edition films and I thought they were incredible. I especially loved the Mos Eisley sequences and the additions made to the scenes at Jabba’s Palace. (Han stepping on Jabba’s tail was quite funny, too). I also like a few of the subtle changes near the end of *Empire*. I do have to admit though, contrary to popular opinion, I didn’t like the Biggs scene in *A New Hope*. I always felt the story flowed better without that character.

Regardless of the new additions, just seeing the *Star Wars* trilogy on the big screen was amazing. I grew up with *Star Wars*, and have loved the stories since I was a child. Like many other fans, I can’t explain how great an impact *Star Wars* had on me.

A few issues back Steve Sansweet mentioned the idea of releasing the novelization of the first prequel before the movie comes out. I would like to stress I think this is a BAD idea. I would much rather see the movie first, and all you would need is a blabber mouth to tell everyone what happens before they see it.

There is also one question I would like to ask. In issue 32 of the *Insider*, Rick McCallum mentions Coruscant will appear in the prequels. To the best of my knowledge the first mention

(continued on page 68)



Jason and Tyler Meudt and their collection.

who is 4. I remember, as have many, going to see the original *Star Wars* with my father. I was proud to have been able to take Tyler to see the new *Star Wars* and to fully appreciate the excitement of the movie and Tyler’s reactions. *Star Wars* is one of the great classics and Tyler and I appreciate your keeping it alive.

I have enclosed a few pictures of Tyler and myself along with our *Star Wars* memorabilia.

corporation in the making of the figures, or a mistake by Tsuneo Sanda, the artist who painted the Cantina Toast poster? Or are there six Cantina Band Members?

John Tajchman
Corpus Christi, TX

Good question: Sanda’s painting is correct, there are actually six Cantina Band Members in



prequel update

WITH RICK MCCALLUM



New Star Wars Stars!

Rick, the new cast has been announced for the prequels. Tell me a little more about who these actors are and the characters they play?

Liam Neeson

Liam plays a Jedi Master who is a mentor to Obi-Wan Kenobi. Liam is such a great actor. He has an enormous stature and he's just a wonderful guy when you meet him. He has a lot of authority but with a real gentleness at the same time. He is extremely wise. It was very easy to envision him for this role.

Ewan McGregor

Ewan is playing the young Obi-Wan. He is a fantastic Scottish actor. He can play a variety of roles. If you saw his performance in *Trainspotting*, *Shallow Grave* and *Emma* you'd see he's like a chameleon. He is really a mercurial, multi-talented, multi-faceted human being. He just seemed to us the perfect Obi-Wan. He plays Obi-Wan between the ages of 25 and 28.

Jake Lloyd

Jake is our young Anakin Skywalker. We went through two years of searching for the right kid to play Anakin. Jake has a very interesting personality. He's smart, mischievous, and loves anything mechanical. He's really a good kid. He had all the right qualities that George was looking for in Anakin. Jake will only be in the first prequel since, in Part Two and Part Three, Anakin will be much older.

Natalie Portman

Natalie is playing the Queen. Natalie is like Audrey Hepburn. She is a wonderful, serious,

In our continuing series of updates with Producer Rick McCallum, we go behind the scenes to bring you the latest news on the Star Wars prequels!

BY DAN MADSEN

deeply committed and focused student. She is a lovely actress. She was always our first choice for this role. I love her dearly. She'll be starring on Broadway in *The Diary of Anne Frank* after she finishes this first prequel.

Pernella August

Pernella is playing Shmi Skywalker who is Anakin's mother. We've known Pernella for a long time. She has worked with Ingmar Bergman a lot. She's a great Swedish actress. She just won the Best Actress Award at Cannes for *Best Intentions*. We first worked with her on *Young Indy* where she played Princess Sophie's nanny, Emilie, in the Vienna 1908 episode. She's a lovely and wonderful actress. She has all the dignity and power that you could ever want for the role of Anakin's mother. She was our first choice as well.

I understand that you have an entire movie studio under the roof of Leavesden Studios there. Tell me about the different departments hard at work there?

We have 850,000 square feet. It's probably the largest studio in the world. We have it all to ourselves and for a very long time. We have a huge, extensive area for special floor effects. We have a huge area that we have turned into our special creature effects. This is where we are

making our creatures. We're also making every single costume ourselves. We have an enormous construction area because we're building close to 50 sets. We have our own rigging department, our own fire department, etc., etc. It's like a small city.



Have you ever worked in an environment like this before?

Yes, on *Young Indy* but on a much smaller scale. But it's basically the same *Young Indy* template. We did everything ourselves and didn't depend on the kindness of strangers.



Is it true that almost everybody working on the prequels also worked on *Young Indy*?

Yes, everybody on the shooting crew and all the heads of the departments all worked on *Young Indy*.

How many people are now working full-time on the prequels?

Right now, we have about 500, but most of that is construction. It will slip off and then we will have a shooting crew of about 80 people who will be on the whole time. But we will be building sets throughout the whole time. The average will be about 350.

Who is Ian McCaig and what is his role on the new prequels?

He is a wonderful artist who has been working for us for a year-and-a-half. He is a lovely guy. He has designed a lot of the look of the costumes for us. He is working in concert with Doug Chiang. Doug is the major conceptual artist and Terry Whitlatch, Ian and Jay Shuster are our other artists.

We have a photo running with this update of the sculpt for prequel Yoda. Is it true that he

“Does Jabba the Hutt make an appearance in the first film?”

won't be fully CG created for the prequels?

Frank Oz will be playing Yoda again. He won't be fully CG. Frank got something that was really special, but in those circumstances where Yoda needs to walk, then he will be CG. The majority of the time he will be controlled by Frank. CG is just a tool that helps you solve problems that you can't do in other ways.

Any of the other original characters we might see in this first film?

R2-D2 and the beginnings of C-3PO.

Does Jabba the Hutt make an appearance in this first film?

Not a large role but he is definitely in it.

I understand that the space at Leavesden allows you to leave sets standing for a long time instead of tearing them down. Why is this important for the way you are going to shoot the movie?

We're trying to blur the whole process between production and post-production so that they become almost intertwined. They are taking place simultaneously. Which means that we make cuts, we do our tracks, we see the film, we've got our animatics cut together. In some sections, that's the only film we'll actually have because there are so many effects shots. But

what that allows us to do is keep our sets up, edit, rewrite, come back and reshoot and continue that process right up until the day the film is released. It's totally evolutionary. It's just like a painter working very close to a canvas and then stepping back and making changes.

How many full sets do you have currently built for the first movie at Leavesden?

We have about seven now and about fifteen that are pre-fabricated.

What will be the biggest set that you will build for this first movie?

The biggest set will probably be the exterior of our capital city. That will be the biggest set.

It sounds like things are really beginning to take shape.

It's getting very close. We start shooting this summer and we're all very excited.

Previous Page: (Top) George Lucas, Director of the prequels (Bottom) Leavesden Studios, outside London, England.
This Page: (Top) Gary Pallard working on a Yoda sculpture. (Bottom) George Lucas, Director, Chris Newman, First Assistant Director, David Tattersall, Director of Photography, and Jon Shink, Documentation (in foreground with camera), working on Shooting Stage D.



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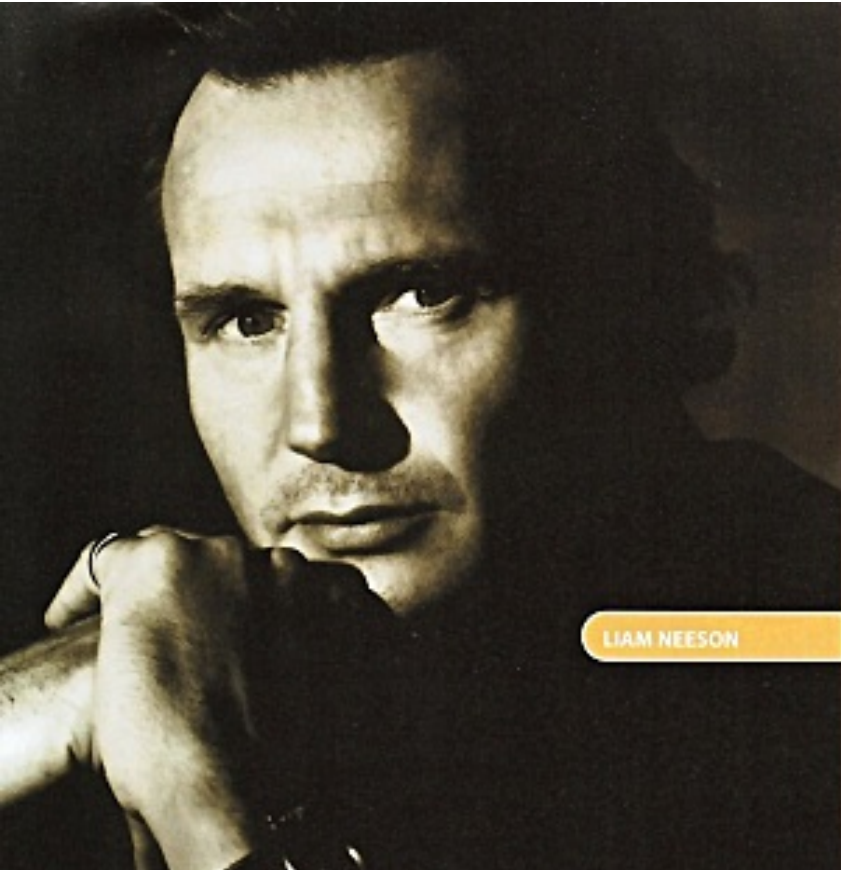
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LIAM NEESON



NATALIE PORTMAN

Star news PREQUEL CASTING

As the *Insider* was going to press, Lucasfilm was putting the first pieces of its casting puzzle for the first *Star Wars* prequel in place. The *Insider* is proud and excited to present the new stars of *Star Wars*:

LIAM NEESON Jedi Master

Taking flight as a wise and noble Jedi Master, acclaimed and Oscar-nominated actor Liam Neeson joins the *Star Wars* universe. Neeson is perhaps best known for his starring role in Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning 1993 epic *Schindler's List*, and he has also starred in a number of other powerful films, including playing the ti-

tle role in last year's *Michael Collins*, for which Neeson snared the Best Actor award at the Venice Film Festival in addition to a Golden Globe nomination. He was also Golden Globe and Oscar nominated for *Schindler's List*.

The Irish-born Neeson also starred as the original *Darkman* and has appeared in films as diverse as Woody Allen's *Husbands and Wives*, Steve Martin's *Leap of Faith*, *Nell* with

Jodie Foster, *Rob Roy*, *Before and After*, *The Mission*, *The Bounty*, and John Boorman's *Excalibur*, his screen debut following a string of acclaimed performances on the British stage. Before the first episode of *Star Wars*, the busy actor will appear with Geoffrey Rush (*Shine*) and Uma Thurman in the upcoming *Les Misérables*.

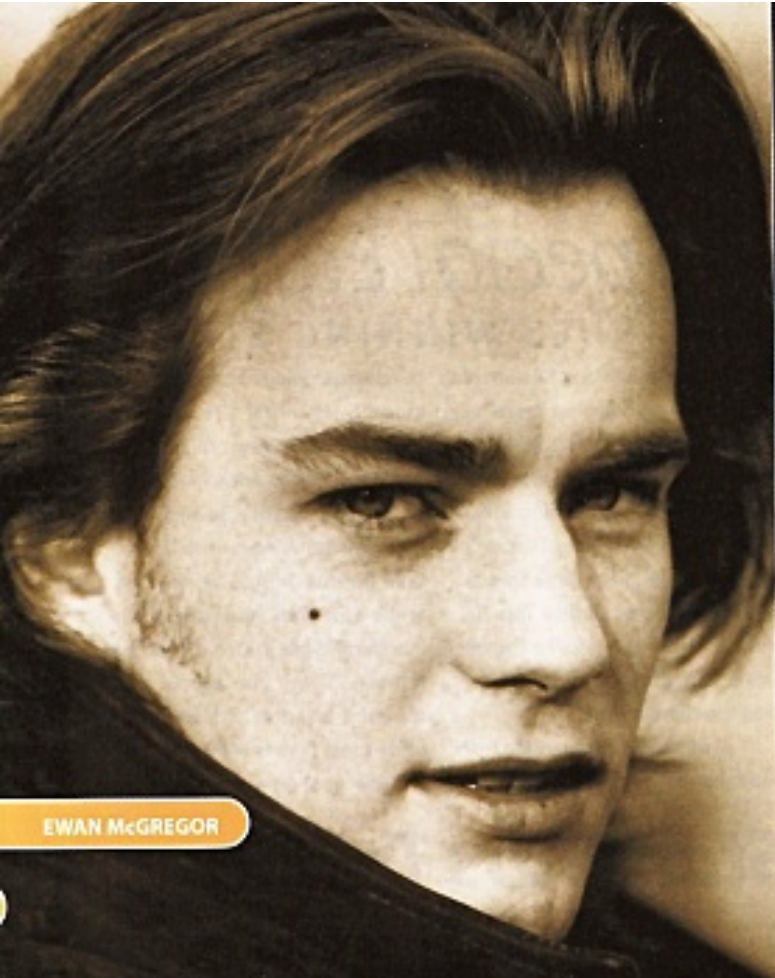
NATALIE PORTMAN Young Queen

In her screen debut, Luc Besson's *The Professional*, a then-12-year-old Natalie Portman commanded the screen with a luminous intensity rarely seen in actresses with twice her experience. Since *The Professional*, Portman has made strong impressions in *Heat*, *Beautiful Girls*, Woody Allen's *Everyone Says I Love You*, and Tim Burton's *Mars Attacks!*

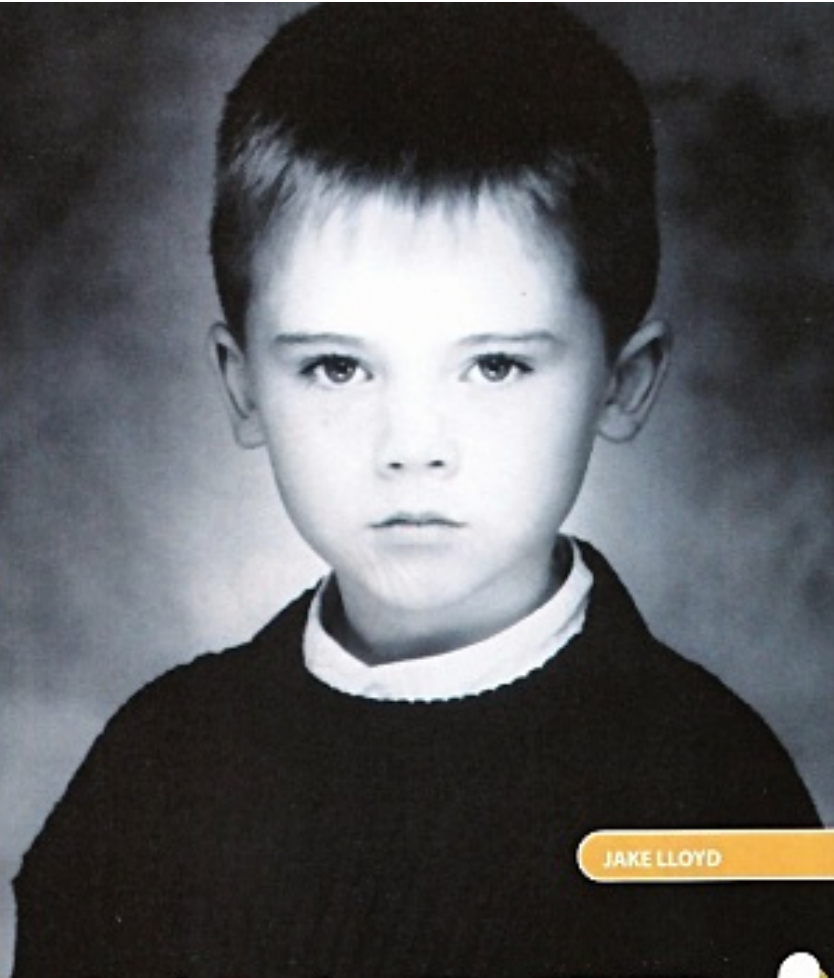
Now, Portman will bring her considerable talents to the role of the Young Queen. Before that, she'll make her Broadway debut this fall in the title role of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Born in 1981 in Jerusalem but raised on the East coast of the United States, Portman is an honors student who enjoys writing, dancing, and spending time with her friends.

EWAN MCGREGOR Obi-Wan Kenobi

British sensation Ewan McGregor assumes the coveted role of a young Obi-Wan Kenobi in the first episode of the *Star Wars* saga. McGregor is probably best known to American fans for his powerhouse performances in two films by director Danny Boyle that became two of the biggest hits in British history: *Trainspotting* and *Shallow Grave*,



EWAN MCGREGOR



JAKE LLOYD

ING ANNOUNCED!

both of which gained strong followings in the U.S. The actor and director have also re-teamed on the upcoming *A Life Less Ordinary*.

In addition, McGregor has also acted in *Emma*, *Brassed Off*, *Being Human*, *Nightwatch*, *The Serpent's Kiss*, *The Pillow Book*, and the upcoming *Velvet Goldmine* for director Todd Haynes (*Safe*). He's also appeared on television on *ER*, *Tales from the Crypt*, and the British series *Lipstick on Your Collar*. Ewan looks forward to learning the ways of the Force in the first *Star Wars* prequel. Ewan also has the great distinction of being the nephew of Denis (Wedge) Lawson.

JAKE LLOYD

Anakin Skywalker

His name is **Jake Lloyd**, but to a world of *Star Wars* fans, he will now always be known as Young

Anakin Skywalker, the main character of the *Star Wars* saga and the kid who will be Darth Vader. That's a lot for any actor to handle, let alone an eight-year-old actor like Lloyd. But the young performer has shown his talents in two major films — as Arnold Schwarzenegger's toy-craving son in *Jingle All the Way*, and as Marisa Tomei's exuberant son in *Unhook the Stars*.

Lloyd also has a recurring role on *ER*, as Jimmy, the son of a terminally ill woman. He's also appeared on television in *The Pretender*, the Family Channel feature *Apollo 11*, and in numerous commercials. While he's played plenty of people's sons, Jake will soon be better known as the father of *Star Wars*' Luke and Leia — not a bad trade-off. ☺

(*Star News* continues on page 14)



PERNELLA AUGUST

OTHER ACTORS

Here is a list of some other actors that will thrill you in the new *Star Wars* trilogy.

Pernela August (*Anakin's* mother)

Ian McDiarmid (*The Emperor* from *ROTJ*)

Frank Oz (*Yoda* in *TESB* & *ROTJ*)

Samuel L. Jackson

Ahmed Best

Adrian Dunbar

Terence Stamp

Oliver Ford Davies

Ray Park

Jerome Blake

Warwick Davis (*Wicket* in *ROTJ*)

Kenny Baker (*R2-D2* in *ANH*, *TESB*, *ROTJ*)

Hugh Quarshie

Cin

Khan Bonfils

Alan Rascov

Michelle Taylor

Michaela Cottrell

John Fensom

Liz Wilson

Christina DiSilva

Silas Carson



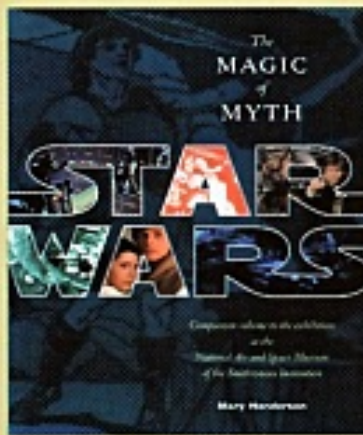
Smithsonian Star Wars Exhibit KICKS OFF IN OCTOBER

The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum will commemorate the 20th Anniversary of *Star Wars* with an exhibition that will explore the enduring popularity of spacefaring pilots "a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far, away..."

"Star Wars: The Magic of Myth" will open October 29th in the Museum's "Flight and the Arts" gallery. The exhibition will include over 250 original props, models, costumes, characters, and artwork used to create the three films in the *Star Wars* trilogy.

The exhibition is made possible through the generous support of Bantam Books, a division Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Inc., and Lucasfilm Ltd. Bantam Books will

also publish a richly illustrated exhibition companion book, by curator Mary Henderson, which explores in greater detail the mythological, historical, and cultural themes of the exhibition.



Return of the Jedi Special Edition CONTINUES WINNING STREAK

The Special Edition of *Return of the Jedi* rounded out the re-release of George Lucas' *Star Wars* trilogy when it debuted the weekend of March 14 to a resounding \$16.3 million in U.S. ticket sales. That stellar weekend found all three Special Editions in the box office Top 10, with *Star Wars* at No. 9, *The Empire Strikes Back* at No. 4, and *Jedi* topping the chart at No. 1.

At presstime, *Return of the Jedi* had taken in over \$43 million in its

re-release, upping its total gross (including its initial 1983 run) to roughly \$306 million. In addition, *The Empire Strikes Back* Special Edition had grossed over \$67 million at presstime, resulting in a total *Empire* take approaching \$290 million, while *Star Wars* had amassed a mammoth \$138 million in its latest release, giving the movie that started it all a total domestic box office gross of over \$460 million — and still counting — at presstime.

Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition A BLOCKBUSTER IN INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH

Just one week after the *Return of the Jedi* Special Edition debuted in the United States, the *Star Wars* world tour began, with the *Star Wars* Special Edition's release in Sweden, Brazil, and the United Kingdom on March 21. With *Star Wars* expanding to other foreign territories through July and the Special Editions of *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Jedi* beginning their international roll-outs on April 4 and 18, respectively, and continuing through August, the rest of the world finally got a taste of the excitement U.S. audiences had almost begun to take for granted.

As with the trilogy's domestic re-release, *Star Wars* was a blockbuster again all over the world, topping box office charts from Spain to Singapore, from Australia to Latvia. At presstime, the *Star Wars* Special Edition had accumulated over \$100 million in international grosses, adding to its original

foreign take of \$198 million.

Empire, which had only been playing internationally for two weeks at presstime, had already garnered over \$28 million overseas, bringing its lifetime international gross to over \$220 million so far. *Jedi*, meanwhile, had only just begun its foreign run at presstime, earning a combined \$306,000 its first weekend in the relatively tiny marketplaces of Norway and Poland, and with openings in 27 territories across Europe, Asia, and Latin America imminent. (*Return of the Jedi* grossed \$117 million in its first foreign go-round.)

So while U.S. fans begin to let go of the Special Edition hoopla and hold their collective breath for the 1999 release of the first *Star Wars* prequel, eager audiences the world over are keeping the *Star Wars* torch burning bright. Maybe if diplomats, peace-makers, and political leaders can't unite the world, the Force will.

More Star Tours at Disneyland



This past March Disneyland celebrated 10 years of Star Tours with "Star Wars Days" at Disneyland in Anaheim, California. Many *Star Wars* characters were on hand for the event including Chewbacca, R2-D2, C-3PO, and numerous Ewoks. **Carrie Fisher** even made an appearance at a special

reception.

"*Star Wars Days*" coincided with news from the *Hollywood Reporter* that Disney and Lucasfilm are in discussions to revamp the ride that first opened in 1987. Although the reconfigured Star Tours attraction will not be done in time for the reopening of Tomorrowland in spring 1998, Disneyland spokesman Tom Brocato was quoted as saying it's hoped that the updated Star Tours could be completed in 1999, in advance of the expected release of the first new *Star Wars* movie that same year. The Star Tours attraction in Tomorrowland, in which audiences experience an out-of-control

flight through space with *Star Wars* droids C-3PO and R2-D2, will be updated to feature new film footage related to the next movie in the series. The building housing the attraction will also be redesigned to put more of the queue

lines inside the structure where patrons are immersed in a *Star Wars* environment before experiencing the "flight." However plans are still in the early stages and nothing has been decided yet. 🤖

Special Edition

COMES TO HOME VIDEO THIS SUMMER

Lucasfilm and Fox Home Video have announced that the *Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition* will be released on home video in late August 1997. The *Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition* was the cornerstone of Lucasfilm's 20 Years of *Star Wars* celebration. The videos will be marketed primarily as a set of all three films, and will be done through the THX Digital Mastering program; available in both pan and scan and widescreen. For details see your local video store. 🍿



Star Wars Royal Premiere I N L O N D O N

Star Wars finally got the Royal treatment it deserved on March 20th with a gala premiere in London's Leicester Square. In attendance was the Prince of Wales himself, **Prince Charles**, along with **George Lucas**, **Rick McCallum**, **Mark Hamill**, **Anthony Daniels**, **Peter Mayhew**, **Kenny Baker**, **Warwick Davis**, and

many more. The occasion was especially sweet for Lucasfilm, since most of *Star Wars* was filmed in England, and many of the primary creative people were English, but the film never received a Royal premiere when it opened in 1977. 🍿



SWCCG World Champion Visits Tunisia

Raphael Asselin, 1996 *Star Wars* Customizable Card Game World Champion received an all-expense paid trip to visit *Star Wars* sights in Tunisia in May, courtesy of Decipher, as his prize for winning the 1996 World Tournament. Raphael was accompanied by his guest Amelie St. Onge, and his tournament director Francis Lalumière

and his guest France-Andree Lafreniere. The trip was led by archaeologist and *Insider* contributor David West Reynolds, who led the group to remote locations in Tunisia where the original *Star Wars* was filmed including locations for "Star Wars Canyon," the Dune Sea, and the Skywalker homestead (aka The Hotel Sidi Dris). During the voyage

Reynolds tracked the location of the Anchorhead scenes, which were edited out of *Star Wars*, and will be featured in the next issue of the *Insider*. The 1997 *Star Wars* Customizable Card Game World Tournament will be held in December, in Virginia. ☺

Hardware Wars

THE SPECIAL EDITION

The classic *Star Wars* parody, *Hardware Wars*, is back with exciting new computer-generated "special defects" sequences of flying corkscrews and irons. With a



new home video release you can once again join Fluke Starbucker, Ham Salad, Augie Ben Doggie and Princess Anne-Droid as they battle the evil Darph Nader and his waffle-iron battle station. *Hardware Wars* was created in 1977 by Ernie Fosselius' and went on to become one of the highest grossing short films of all time. The film has been out of print on home video for over ten years. For more information on *Hardware Wars: The Special Edition* write: Michael Wiese Productions, 11288 Ventura Blvd., Suite 821, Studio City, CA 91604. ☺

Dewbacks

SIGHTED ON THE WEB

This summer, the Official *Star Wars* Web site will feature an in-depth look at some of the work that went into the *Star Wars* Special Edition. Over several weeks, the site will tell the story of the making of the dewback scene in *SWSE* going into detail about the creative development, computer graphics



work, restoration, filming, and integration of the scene. Dewbacks, as you may remember, are the large desert creatures ridden by Vader's detachment of stormtroopers as they searched Tatooine for R2-D2 and C-3PO. Check out Anatomy of a Dewback this summer at <http://www.starwars.com>. ☺



In the Star Wars Universe

BY SCOTT CHERNOFF

Femi Taylor Oola-La!

A closer look at the characters that fleshed out the worlds of Star Wars, and the talented actors who portrayed them.

EW PEOPLE HAVE EVER MISTAKEN *Star Wars* for smut, but Femi Taylor had reason to be suspicious when she received odd instructions for her initial meeting with director Richard Marquand in 1982. "I had no idea what it was I was auditioning for," recalled the dancer/actress, who was 22 at the time. "They were quite secretive, and they said they wanted me to come in my swimwear. I thought, 'I hope this is not a blue movie!'"

Despite her concerns, the Nigerian-born, London-raised Taylor showed up for the audition, dutifully wearing her swimwear. Of course, this was no sleazy erotic thriller. Yet it wasn't until after she won the part of Oola, Jabba the Hutt's beautiful Twi'lek slave dancer — who indeed wears a tight, swimsuit-like outfit — that Taylor found out she had just auditioned for *Return of the Jedi*. "They said it was the new *Star Wars*," she confessed, "and I just freaked."

Now, 15 years later, Taylor — and her fans — are freaking again, thanks to her freshly-anointed status as the only original *Star Wars* trilogy cast member to return to shoot all-new scenes for the Special Edition. "I never thought I'd be called back—it was a real honor," marveled the unfailingly polite and good-natured actress, new shots of whom blend seamlessly with her original dance moves in the *Return of the Jedi* Special Edition.

In either version, Taylor lends a haunting sadness to Oola, whose defiant refusal to be pulled closer to the oozing crimelord Jabba the

Hutt is all the more powerful because Taylor doesn't flinch from letting us see the fear in Oola's eyes. When Jabba sends her plummeting into the rancor chamber, viewers feel an immediate visceral hatred of the Hutt not just due to the casual inhumanity of his act but also because of the fierce humanity of his victim.

When *Star Wars* creator George Lucas envisioned a revamped palace sequence for *Jedi*, complete with a new song for the Max Rebo Band and two new dancers to cavort with Oola, producer Rick McCallum tracked down Taylor, whose brother, actor Benedict Taylor, happened to be working with him on Lucas' *Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*.

But before Taylor was given the part, she first had to assuage the concerns of filmmakers

eager to match new Oola footage with original images of the actress shot in 1982. "They said, 'Have you changed? Have you put on weight?'" Taylor remembered. "They all said, 'Oh, she'll never fit in the original costume'" — a costume that Lucasfilm had preserved in perfect condition. (The original green make-up, thankfully, was not re-used.)

Luckily, all those years of dancing served her well. "I fit in the same costume perfectly," Taylor said modestly. "I felt quite glad about myself." Even the large Twi'lekian head-piece she had to don "fit better than the first time," she enthused. "It was quite comfortable." Of course, it didn't hurt that, as she put it, "I knew what I was in for this time."

Such was not the case during Taylor's first





“She escaped and was on the run, then she got captured, and *then* she got killed. But they ran out of time and couldn’t shoot it.”

turn as Oola in the original *Jedi*. “The first time,” she remembered, “we worked on the choreography for two weeks, but they didn’t tell me what I would be wearing. All of the sudden, I have to wear this ... hat.” Mastering the dance while wearing the massive head-tails, she added, was simply a matter of “getting used to it and making it your best friend.”

OF COURSE, IT DIDN’T HURT that Taylor had spent years training with the London Contemporary Dance Company and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York. She was appearing in the original London cast of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Cats* when she landed the role of Oola. “I remember doing *Jedi* in the daytime,” she said, “then taking off my green make-up and going across town to put my cat make-up on in the evening.”

Taylor recalled the late Marquand’s directorial style as close to that of Lucas, whom she said directed her Special Edition appearance. “George Lucas was giving me direction on the new scenes,” Taylor told the *Insider*, “which was nice, since the first time I only said hello to him.” Lucas and Marquand were “very similar,” she said, “very easy to work with. Not intimidating — it was like working with a good mate.”

The same could not be said of Taylor’s initial tussles with the gigantic puppet that was Jabba the Hutt. “He was pretty disgusting,” she confirmed, “although the three men inside him were lovely. They had to be careful they wouldn’t yank me. The spacing was quite difficult, and the leash was quite restricting. It took many takes for us to get it together — a week just to shoot that [original] dance sequence.”

Her work in the Special Edition was a bit less difficult. “I didn’t have to dance much,” she said, “mostly struggle on the leash.” Though her new footage does nothing to avert Oola’s untimely demise at the claws of the rancor, viewers are treated to a new shot of the Twi’lek as she cowers in fear of the hideous beast. “Rick McCallum said we should follow Oola through,” Taylor said. “They built a special set for me, in

the dungeon. That was totally unexpected.”

In fact, there was much more of Oola in the script of the original *Return of the Jedi* than made it into the finished, 1983 film. “She had a whole story,” Taylor revealed. “She escaped and was on the run, then she got captured, and then she got killed. But they ran out of time and couldn’t shoot it.”

Despite the excised subplot, *Return of the Jedi* was, to say the least, an auspicious film debut. She followed the role by dancing through movies as diverse as the Oscar-nominated drama *Ragtime* and the classic spy spoof *Top Secret*. But Taylor — who also studied at London’s Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts — is most proud of her acting, in films like the acclaimed Australian Nicole Kidman drama *Flirting*, and the recent British film *Plane Away*. She’s currently back on the London stage in a hit revival of Webber’s *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Yet so far, the most popular role of Femi Taylor’s still-burgeoning career is the one she played twice in *Return of the Jedi*. “When people know that I played Oola, that I went back to do it, they go bananas,” she said. “When I first started rehearsals for *Jesus Christ Superstar*, I had just finished shooting the Special Edition. I told one person I’d done *Jedi*, and by lunch, everyone was coming up to me. They can’t believe I did it.”

And like two generations of fans, they’re all glad she showed up for that strange audition in 1982 — and that she wore her swimwear. No doubt that if anyone were to find that bathing suit, it would still fit her.

GOT A FAVORITE STAR WARS PERFORMER YOU’VE NEVER SEEN INTERVIEWED? E-MAIL YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO SCOTT CHERNOFF@THESTARWARSUNIVERSE.COM



(above) Femi Taylor as she appears today; (left) Femi Taylor as Oola

Previous Page (top) Oola; (bottom) Oola in a scene from *Return of the Jedi* Special Edition.

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Um, Salvete

That means hello, I think - in Latin. Latin is a language spoken by a lot of dead people. They weren't dead when they were speaking it of course. They died later. In fact they died so much and so often that they died out. Completely. How stupid can you get! In Ancient Rome the phrase 'Can we talk here...!' took on new and sinister meanings. You'd have thought one of them would have noticed and said something like... 'Um... perhaps we should all stop talking Latin and stay alive...' They were, of course, the Ancient Romans (and, in some cases, Ancient Rowmens, I suppose). They went around wearing their bed linen. Odd. But useful if you want to take a quick nap away from home. I learned about them at school (Oh, not again. Ed). Except I didn't learn that much about them. You remember how bad I was at French (see WC No.6), well I was even worse at Latin. I had no idea what it was about or why. So I only learned a little bit, like hello (above) and goodbye (Valeté) (normally at the end) and how Caesar went to the wall to buy bread, (a phrase that has been endlessly useful to me in later life) (NOT!) (also I now realise that a chap as important as Julius C would have had people to go to Safeways for him). And they couldn't even put their words in the right order (as in, Caesar, bread ARS - as we shall call them - couldn't even put their words in the right order (as in, Caesar, bread to buy, to the wall, went), learning Latin was rather like pursuing a detective investigation with no crime (apart from the Toga'd-One getting the full six-pack of bread knives in the back during an early spring break) and to me - no point. I left school barely knowing my ARS from my elbow. Later in life, when I was studying law, I found that Latin is constantly used in jolly little phrases which everyone understands if they are a lawyer but confuses the mere plebs (short for plebeian, Latin for the type of person one might meet in a bowling alley). The only phrase I remember was, in loco parentis which means, I think, my father is an engine driver (obviously I am a pleb)(You said it. Ed.). But one of the things I did learn has been very useful to me. As I wander this planet (and apparently others), I find myself saying it at quite regular moments. Mea culpa. Mea maxima culpa. The ARS said it a lot too. Something of an understatement in their case, given that they ultimately wiped themselves out. I think it means. I screwed up.

Which brings me to the nub of the matter...



W

NO.9 OF THE IMPROVED! NEW!

onder Column

IN THE INSIDER
FROM THE MAN INSIDE C-3PO*

* WARNING! CONTAINS WORDS LIKE 'PARSIMONY' AND 'SMUG' (WHICH, FOR THOSE LIVING IN MERRIMACK NH, CAN BE FOUND IN ANY DICTIONARY) THAT MEANS YOU ERIC SILVERHALE!



Gosh!

Screwed up? Me? Never! (What never? Ed). OK just the once. You know how I'm always banging on about that greatest of German inventions: joy in another's misfortune. Regular readers... (both of them? Ed) as I was saying... Regular readers will remember that the great-sausage-inventors even coined a word for this rather unkind sensation we all experience occasionally - shadenfreude (see WCs 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and now 9). Actually they invented a word very like it but with a c between the s and the h. As I

typed away I never noticed. Only when one of my more educated and swottish readers (Name names. Ed)** was kind enough to point it out, unwittingly causing me some embarrassment, did I realise that I had been parading my ignorance through countless WCs before uncounted readers. Yes! I spelt *schadenfreude* rong!

Mea culpa. Mea maxima culpa. Sorry. No excuse.

Well actually, yes. An excuse! I only have enough German to order coffee and a possible

sausage (they call them the wurst but I've eaten some quite pleasant examples). So you can see that I have a little knowledge of this ancient tongue. And you know what they say...

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing!

I have so little knowledge that they call me

Lethal Weapon XVIII, not to mention **Total Gobar Thermodynamic Nuclear Warfare**. We are all brought onto this planet knowing nothing. Some remain that way: New York cab drivers; the average post office clerk; a tulip - or me... until...

I'd never been in a film before. Knowing nothing, I could make it up. And within days I was bandying words like a medium two-shot and a half pancake, not to mention a pan. Now I had



the knowledge. Call me Mr Movie...

DEATH STAR - INTERIOR CONTROL ROOM: They'd already (see WC No.7) managed to smash-up the remote control R2-D2 in a collision worthy of PCH in the fog (PCH is my latest bit of acquired trendspeak, only meaning Pacific Coast Highway, but by its abbreviation implying a glamorous familiarity with the suburbs of Tarnishtown) (fog is just fog, I'm afraid), so now we were working with a dummy (There were two of you? Ed).

The shot was a close-up of Artoo's digit going into the computer terminal so he could beep at me (well not actually beep at me at the time of course but some months later, after I'd gone home) that the Princess was *in level five, detention block AA23*. However, Artoo's digit was proving somewhat problematic.

Picture the scene. Me, neck to foot in gold. Since I wouldn't be fully visible they allowed me out of the box I normally wore on my head for these occasions. At my feet R2-D2 and several FX engineers. Masters at their craft, all there to insert the digit.

ACTION! A hand see-sawed the pivoted digit up and out towards the centre of the terminal's information port. A quick plunge forward and... too low! CUT! ACTION! Again a hand see-sawed the digit up and towards the centre of the terminal's information port. A quick plunge forward and too high! It looked like the clumsy attempts of a blindfolded pigeon on

The Price Is Right or *Golden Shot*. CUT! ACTION! Again... well anyway... Several observers were feeling rather irritated by the delay. The Man Responsible For Everything was looking peevish and TMIC was feeling hot.

Tension mounted. Much talk of hydraulic rams and pneumatics. High sounding technospeak. Years must have been endured at NFC. Only a Master's degree from Nuclear Fission College could qualify one for this kind of conversation. With my sausage-only-German I was not worthy. But I had nowhere to go or if I did, it was too uncomfortable to travel that far, dressed as it was. I watched with inter-

est. Later I didn't. My mind wandered. Did hydraulic rams dream of pneumatic sheep, I wondered. Time passed...

Enough!

"If you were to put the digit in the hole and tie a piece of string tightly from the other end of the digit to that inside ridge of Artoo's top and then pulled out the digit and let it drop, when you pull down the other end again, so that the string is taut once more, the digit will automatically have returned to the right height. Won't it?"

It was the longest non-Threepio speech I had ever given on the set. It was met with blank, and I thought, rather resentful stares. The eyes said, *He's an actor. What does he know? Never done a movie before. Won't be a god for several more years and then only of the Ewaks. And he tells us to use... string! Ha!*

There was a pause. Eyes swivelled lovingly over relays and thyristors and gizmos doomed to the ranks of the unemployed by my stone-age suggestion. An unenthusiastic voice murmured. Very quietly - in case I heard. "Got any string?"

And it didn't end there.

Stay with me in the CONTROL ROOM. After some cunning and inventive improvisation implying major insanity on the part of Luke Skywalker and friends, C-3PO manages to send the idiot stormtroopers on a wild mission. Picking up the comlink with ease (see later WC for the true facts behind this lie), he then trots to the door (see WC No.7 for more on doors) and is horrified to see a remaining trooper on guard. Again some stunning improvisation concerning the health of his short but loyal friend allows them to make their escape down the corridor. Easy. Except...

My short but loyal friend doesn't do corners. Due to the previously described pile-up, they were reduced once more to hauling him along on a wire. Simple for Joe, lying under the camera on the other end of the wire, to drag him in a straight line from the cupboard to the exit. But then what? How on Death Star could he turn and leave the room in one shot?

More nuclear fission theories. Time was about to pass. But I was feeling a little more confident and a lot more hot.

"What if Joe went off down the hallway and pulled the wire from there and the wire comes from Artoo through a loop held by Brian behind the stormtrooper? I will stop and talk to him (the trooper - obviously not Brian since he wasn't meant to be there and it would have



looked silly). During that moment Brian releases the loop, Joe collects the slack and pulls. Artoo will turn ninety degrees and be pulled through the door. Won't he?"

The second longest non-Threepio speech I'd made. There was a pause. Eyes swivelled. Minds twirled to find a better way than that

which a mere actor could suggest. "Get the wire," a voice murmured. Very quietly - in case I heard. Watch the scene. Hopefully you won't see Brian and Joe but look at Threepio as he leaves. I think we may both have been looking rather smug.

And strange to say, they were right. I did become a god but not without a certain amount of indignity. EXTERIOR FOREST - DENSE FOLIAGE. As you know the inhabitants of Endor - those



adorably sweet, cute, charming, interesting, inventive and entertaining little bundles of fur and fun - have a particularly attractive way of making new friends. They lay nets on the ground which snare any visitors crazy enough to be exploring their underworld without a cattle prod (for more on prods see WC No.7). The nets close and hoist the victims airwards to await their dreadful fate - meeting the Ewoks themselves.

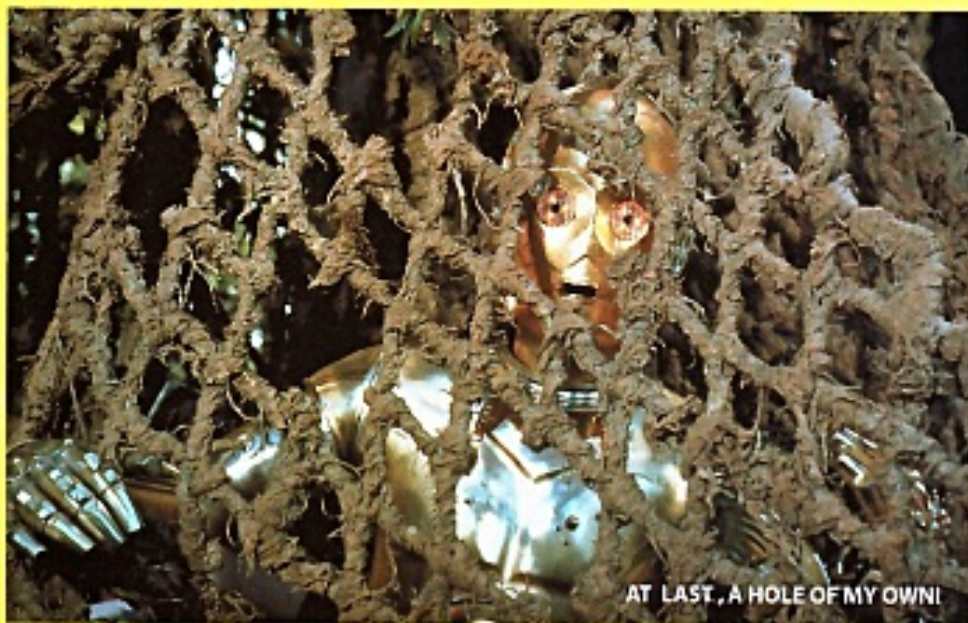
I had read the script. I knew that they would need a huge piece of net to catch all five characters. They'd probably bring some extra lengths to fill in any gaps. They'd done this sort of thing before. Of course.

It was a dejected group who stood in the dense foliage gazing at the offering that had been dragged all the way from England. None more dejected than TMRFE. He was gently explaining that the camera needed to see what was inside the net. The first problem was there was too much. Since the strands were made of hefty rope, thickly coated with hair-strewn latex and woven so close together that a London bus would have been invisible when strung up, he suggested the mesh should be enlarged



somewhat. They set-to with the great net clipper and made holes everywhere. (I will refrain from making schoolboy puns like, what a mesh! etc.)

Second problem? There was too little. The piece of massacred latex lay on the ground like



a large, brown, hairy, unpleasant beach blanket now with holes in it. But not large enough. Long enough in one direction to cover our heads but too short in its other dimension to cover the sides (it was, you will have gathered, an oblong). One way, wide but too short. The other, tall but too narrow. BRING MORE NET! The cry echoed like an Ewok's hunting horn through the forests. The delights of Endor were many but the lack of a local convenience store was, at this moment

— inconvenient. Tension rose. I left.

Time passed.

I returned. They were still there. Dejected. TMRFE was holding a page of the script. The white paper too was oblong. HE gazed at it as if trying to develop an easier device for the Ewoks' hunting machine or wishing he'd never thought of this one in the first place. It had been a long trilogy and it wasn't over yet. But was I not soon to be a king?

"Why don't you turn it kitty-corner?" A short speech under the circumstance. It was met with blank, and I thought, rather resentful stare. TMRFE's eyes said, *He's an actor. What does he know?* But I curled up the diagonally opposite corners of his script page, demonstrating with fiendish simplicity the greater height available through this manoeuvre. He sharply regained control of the page and himself. He made a rather gruff, uninterested sound, as though not wishing to hurt my feelings even though I was very stupid. He edged over to the beach-blanket-with-holes. He beckoned. They came.

"Try turning it kitty-corner," he muttered. Very quietly — in case I heard.

It seems that sometimes a little knowledge is actually quite useful.

And if there's one thing Mickey knows, it's the time. Time to go...

ssssS HHH Prince Charles joined me (and others) for the royal premiere of The Star Wars Special Edition in London - well there was nothing on TV. Asked me who I played in the movie (news travels slow in royal circles). I explained I play a protocol droid who would feel quite at home on such a regal occasion. My future king smiled knowingly, clearly not understanding a word. Oh well That's my knighthood gone! (See WC No. 3 on G. Lucas never becoming king.)

SSSSs Prince Charles, PO to his friends, got a politely silent welcome from the audience. Minutes later they gave Mister Lucas a wildly ecstatic standing ovation that went on and on and on. Tactless really. That's his knighthood gone too.

Pss Apart from Jedi Knighthood, of course.

PPPa Stung by my mild reference (WC No.7) to being inexpensive in NY (and other places), HR (here meaning Howard Hoffman, head of the restful merchandising department at LFL, not His Royalness, see PSS above) whisked me out to dinner and a movie in London. Very generous (Chinese food is so reasonably priced here). Strangely, the movie was Star Wars. I think the tickets were free.

P** I am greatly indebted to Carol Morris of Grand Junction COE who may know how to spell the "S" word but she admits to being clueless about what APASBN stands for. Let's not tell her!

PpP Considering making another glorious visit to the offices of THE STAR WARS INSIDER. Totally wrecked their working day by asking all the members of staff for their autographs. They were too busy producing this splendid mag of course. But today my postman is in intensive care after delivering a gigantic card from them all, (including Candy who was taking another day off when I arrived!). I was overwhelmed (again)(very). Thanks to all my friends (and yours) at THE INSIDER. Now get back to work at once.

PpPpPpP Turns out Candy was off "feeding nuts to Yoda." Very likely!

PssssP Dinner in London's wondrous Kensington Place restaurant with SHOP Lynne Hale. Nice but nice (the restaurant). Clearly not wishing to gain a reputation for parsimony (the HR factor) ever generous Lynne dived for the check and paid for everything including my scrumptious chicken liver. Way to go LH!

Sssssss Also at the table Nice But (Very) Nice Robin Gurland, head of casting for some prequel or other. Helped me with explanatory sketches of New York for my next trip (I was never any good at geography). Several menus later she proudly showed me her finished doodle of New Jersey. Distinctly intestinal. Looked like what I just ate. And Manhattan looked like a donkey's assard. Is she to be trusted? Prequel Art Department - you have been warned!!

pPpPpPpP Talking of nuts... Now seems "Yoda" (PpPpPpP above) is the INSIDER'S tame squirrel. At last! A Jedi squirrel!

Ss Re Stephen J Sansweet (see WC No.8). SJS tells me that the J stands for Jay. Or does he mean the Jay stands for J. No matter. A rose by any other name would smell.... (© Shakespeare)

P p p p How does that end?

P References in WC No.8 to the "Mared-One" giving me a Mickey Mouse watch, of course referred to MM himself and not PO (ssssS above).

You Write

THE STAR WARS INSIDER
PO Box 111000, Aurora, Colorado 80042.

Kyle Clark N/F/A

"... I was amazed at all the interesting things in The Insider but thought the *Wonder Column* seemed over my head..." Try standing on a chair or holding the magazine slightly lower in future. AD

Eileen Jones Minneapolis MN

I can't imagine why Hoth reminds you of your home town in winter. Though I spent a Christmas there once (Minneapolis) and some of your larger fur-coated citizens did look rather like wampas. Perhaps you should relocate. AD

Jonathan S. Axtell

"... Why did the gold plating on your Kenner action figure rub off so easily? I went through more

C-3POs because of that problem..." Did you perhaps mistake me for an item from Aladdin? What on earth were you doing, Jonathan?? In any case, stop it at once! AD

G Bridwall, Normal IL

Thank you for your delightful letter. I had to include your name just so I could smile at your address. Nothing personal. But what's the neighbouring town called? Next To Normal? AD

Veronica, Edinburg TX

"... One time in 1978 I told my mother I wanted to be C-3PO for Halloween. She told me the costume was for little boys and gave it to my brother. I ended up going as Yoda..." And your mother thought that was better? I've always supposed Yoda was a chap too. See your therapist immediately - and take your mother. AD

CANTINA CUISINE CABARET

PRESENTS

LANDO

AND HIS

JUGGLING NACHOS



APOLOGY

Ewoks are

Tough

should have

appeared in

The Cosmic

Karate Kid IV

and not Cantina

Cuisine No. 79

We regret any

unfortunate

implications.

SOON
SPECIAL!



PULL OUT SUPPLEMENT

Salacious
Crumb

THE MARK HAMILL: JEDI SPEAKS

"I want to come with you to Alderaan. There's nothing here for me now. I want to learn the ways of the Force and become a Jedi like my father." —Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill), *Star Wars*

BY JACQUIE
KUBIN

WITH THOSE WORDS, AS WELL AS A ferocious determination and a powerful destiny, Mark Hamill's Luke Skywalker — the farm boy from Tatooine who becomes the hero of the Rebel Alliance — launches himself, and the first *Star Wars* trilogy, on a bold and epic adventure.

The legendary actor was only 24 when he first donned Luke's white tunic, and his boyish innocence and wide-eyed exuberance helped open the door to George Lucas' vast cinematic galaxy for a generation of young moviegoers. His are the eyes through which the audience experiences the saga (though his deep, piercing blue eyes are more expressive than most of ours), and when he learns about the mysterious yet somehow familiar "ways of the Force," so do we.

And thanks to Hamill's open and accessible acting, through which we see Luke's maturation from naïve, impatient youth to wise, masterful Jedi Knight, when he triumphs at the end of *Return of the Jedi* by defeating the Empire and helping to redeem his father, we see the limitless potential in ourselves. His victory is ours, and his heroic journey complete, when he declares, "I am a Jedi, like my father before me."

No one would dispute that point, since Hamill made the character's transformation over the course of three films remarkably believable — quite a feat when surrounded by the most ground-breaking special effects of all time. "What amazes me," Hamill told the *Insider*, "is the number of people I have met who name *Star Wars* as one of the seminal experiences that led them in their career path.

"Looking back at the first film," Hamill continued modestly, "I remember thinking then that Luke was not what we called 'an actor's role.' I didn't see it as so revolutionary, but in the context of what I had to do, I guess I did well." He did more than well. As any card-carrying member of that amorphous group reluctantly known as Generation-X will tell you,

Mark Hamill was our first real hero. (Yes, real.)

Today, Hamill is the hero of the young again, thanks to the *Star Wars* Trilogy Special Edition, which entranced the entire world earlier this year. Suddenly, children everywhere are thrilling for the first time at Luke's exploits on the big screen — and embracing him in much the same way their parents did 20 years ago.

"I received this wonderful outpouring of love," Hamill recalled of his arrival at the Special Edition's world premiere in Los Angeles. "It was multi-generational, from grandmothers to really young people. After seeing the movie again, I realized it's no wonder people find it so optimistic and uplifting. Far from my fear that it would appear outdated, they could have re-released the original film and people would have enjoyed it."

In fact, the star had not even seen *Star Wars* since its original theatrical release in 1977. "At first I had some trepidation about seeing it again," Hamill said from his Malibu, California, home, which he shares with Marilou, his wife of 18 years, and their kids, Nathan (17), Griffin (14), and Chelsea (8). "George and I share a trait in that we both tend to see the flaws in our work, and I was concerned over how dated it is," he continued. "Then, when I saw it on the big screen, I was astonished — I never expected to be as moved as I was. Over the years you tend to accept the mantra that it is just special effects, when, in fact, it is a really well-constructed film. Focusing on that, I saw that the film was brilliant, and I saw the great flourishes and directorial touches that George put into it."

The Jedi admitted he wasn't always in such awe of the film. "I did not recognize the importance of *Star Wars*," he said. "I did not expect the reaction that the Special Edition has received. It is not so much that I ignored *Star Wars*, but I guess





"Seeing the movie again, I saw that it's a great, warm film about friendship, family, and conquering adversity."

I was just concentrating on other things, on continuing my career as an actor, not necessarily as Luke Skywalker." Then something clicked. "I was watching a special with [original Mickey Mouse Club member] Annette Funicello," he continued, "and I thought, 'Once a Mousketeer, always a Mousketeer' — even though her role as a Mousketeer was short in comparison with her entire career as an actress and singer. She is comfortable with that, as I am now comfortable with my work in *Star Wars*."

It wasn't always that way. For years, Hamill shied away from his *Star Wars* legacy, fearful of falling into Hollywood's type-casting trap. Eager to define himself as a diverse, multi-dimensional actor, he went to Broadway, playing Mozart in *Amadeus* and John Merrick in *The Elephant Man*, and eventually to the world of voice-over acting, where he made his strongest mark as the Joker in Warner Brothers' acclaimed hit, *Batman: The Animated Series* and its spin-off feature film, *Mask of the Phantasm*. He also created the Dark Horse comic *Black Pearl*, which he is planning to turn into a feature film he will direct.

But Hamill said he soon realized that, while he certainly didn't want to rest on his laurels, an association with *Star Wars* was nothing to hide. "I don't know why I tended to run from it for so long," the actor reflected. "Seeing the movie again, I saw that it's a great, warm film about friendship, family, and conquering adversity. I look at the trilogy and the character with great fondness today. I know that *Star Wars* was amazing then and it's amazing now."

Still, even during the time of the first *Star Wars* trilogy's initial release, Hamill filled his off years with projects a galaxy away from the saga — and admirably resisted the



temptation to cash in by starring in any number of the third-rate, *Star Wars* rip-off projects he was offered. In 1978, he starred in the raucous Las Vegas teen adventure-comedy *Corvette Summer*, which found Hamill hooking up with a sassy hooker (*Ghostbusters*' Annie Potts) on the hunt for his custom-built Stingray after the 'vette is stolen by car thieves. The film was a can't-miss proposition for Hamill's then-young fans, who salivated at the idea of Luke Skywalker in a car movie.

Hamill also starred with Lee Marvin and Robert Carradine in the revered director Samuel Fuller's World War II tale *The Big Red One* (1980), and with fellow 1970s icon Kristy McNichol (*Family, Little Darlings*) in the 1981 barroom brawler *The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia*.

Between his film work and appearances on Broadway (he did *The Elephant Man* in 1981 and *Amadeus* in 1983), the actor managed to squeeze in a few more *Star Wars*-related projects. In addition to appearing in the notorious "Star Wars Holiday Special" in 1978 and hosting the CBS documentary *SPFX: The Empire Strikes Back* in 1980, Hamill reprised Luke Skywalker in National Public Radio's acclaimed 13-episode adaptation of *Star Wars* in 1981 — one of the most successful NPR dramas ever aired. He also participated in NPR's *Empire* adaptation, which aired in early 1983.

Though Hamill is proud of his work on the *Star Wars* radio dramas, nothing could compare with his experiences making the actual films, he said. "The relationship between Carrie and Harrison and myself was so wonderful," said the actor who is well-known throughout the entertainment



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NEW! Our number
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JAWA TRADER

Darth Vader Authentic Miniature Helmet

Vader's mask was the most terrifying and imposing of his armor and was equipped with visual-enhancement systems, hearing-augmentation devices, a Vocoder electronic voice synthesizer, and air intake/output vents. Now Vader's legend lives on through this never before released, Authentic Miniature Helmet at 45% of the movie original, (approximately 10" tall.) Comes apart into 3 Pieces: helmet, face and neck. Has die-cast metal parts, and realistic breathing apparatus and communication devices. Removable from Imperial base.

LMH1 \$95.00

X-wing Pilot Authentic Miniature Helmet

Next to the X-wing starfighter, the most important hardware to an X-wing pilot is their helmet... for this was their life-line to one another. This meticulously hand-crafted Authentic Miniature X-wing Pilot Helmet, is an exact duplication of the movie original at 45% scale. Has moveable blast shield, detachable chin strap, authentic Rebel pilot markings, complete interior padding and comlink microphone. Removable from Rebel base.

LMH3 \$80.00

C-3PO Authentic Miniature Helmet

Threepio has been fitted with extensive personality modules in his AA-1 VerboBrain. He is equipped with two visual photoreceptors and audio sensors, olfactory sensors and a vocalizer speech/sound system. Broadband antenna receivers allow him to communicate with similarly-equipped droids. This precision crafted Authentic Miniature C-3PO Helmet is hand sculpted in 45% scale of the Star Wars movie original. Motion sensed eyes light up. Vacuum metalized in shiny gold. Broadband antenna, grill eye covers and removable back plate for batteries. Mounted on Rebel logo swivel base.

LMH2 \$70.00



Operators are waiting for your call from 6:30am to 10:00pm MST!



Star Wars Trilogy Patch Set

The Star Wars Fan Club has brought back the cast/crew patches from the original Star Wars Trilogy. Each one of these incredible patches has colorful and finely detailed embroidery and measures approximately 5" long. Only 1,000 sets are being made. You won't find these designs anywhere else! First come first served.

LEP4 \$12.00

Force Pen

This titanium plated "space pen" will write in any direction—even upside down. This refillable pen can travel with you anywhere with the laser engraved reminder "May the Force be with you." A handsome, high quality ball-point writing implement, the Force Pen looks great on any desk. Comes with carrying case.

LPEN2 \$59.95

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Rancor Creature Maquette Limited Edition of 9,500

Illusive Originals and artist Mario Chiodo do it again with his amazing piece sculpted from the original animation model located at the Lucasfilm Archives. The incredible detail of this piece required nine separate molds to complete and comes mounted on a sculpted base. Comes with collector's brochure, engraved silver edition plaque, and signed certificate of authenticity. Measuring over two feet tall the rancor is constructed of foam-filled latex, with a cold cast base.

LLC16 \$600.00





Special Edition 3-D Cup Set from Taco Bell Puerto Rico

Exclusive warehouse find just for Insider readers! The Insider has tracked down *Star Wars* Trilogy Special Edition lenticular promotional cups distributed only by Taco Bell in Puerto Rico. We have three of the four cups in the very collectible set, and they are available exclusively through the Jawa Trader. Each cup is 7" high and has full wrap-around lenticular motion design. We have less than 1,800 available, once they're sold, they're history.

LCUP1 \$8.95



Emperor Palpatine Sculpture Limited Edition of 3,000

Renowned Hollywood artist Greg Aronowitz has sculpted a cold-cast porcelain bust of Emperor Palpatine that is not to be believed. The dark side virtually flows through this vivid 10" likeness which comes with a signed and numbered certificate of authenticity. From Legends in Three Dimensions.

LLC15 \$149.00



Deluxe Cut-Away Posters

These two new posters have easy to read specifications and over 60 technical call-outs. You won't find a more detailed look at your favorite *Star Wars* spaceships. Regular poster measures 24"x 36", is printed on 60 lb cover archival quality paper with 4 color process and one metallic ink, and is UV coated. Limited Edition poster measures 25"x 36", is printed on 80 lb cover archival quality paper with 4 color process and one metallic ink, has two matte finishes, aqueous coating — and is signed by both artists.

LP62	Cut-away X-wing & TIE Fighter Poster \$19.95
LP63	Cut-away X-wing & TIE Fighter Poster Ltd. Ed. of 2,500 \$40.00
LP64	Cut-away Millennium Falcon Poster \$19.95
LP65	Cut-away Millennium Falcon Poster Ltd. Ed. of 2,500 \$40.00

OPERATORS ARE WAITING TO TAKE YOUR CALL FROM 6:30AM TO 10:00PM, MST!



Luke Skywalker Lightsaber Universal Remote

Now you too can be in control of the Force with this Luke Skywalker Lightsaber Universal Remote. This fully functioning home electronic item replaces your current remotes. Has four lightsaber authentic sounds straight from the movie. Comes with carrying case.

LLR1 \$41.95



TIE Fighter Pilot Helmet

The coolest helmet in the Star Wars universe? You be the judge. This TIE Fighter helmet from Don Post Studios is made from high quality molded plastic and includes eye lenses.

L260 \$100.00



Greedo Mask

Become the bounty hunter with this highly detailed new latex mask of the famous Rodian criminal from Don Post Studios.

L26P \$50.00

Han Solo in Carbonite Limited Edition of 2,500

This is the product that no one thought possible: an exact replica of Jabba's favorite wall hanging, Han Solo in carbonite. Measuring over 6 feet tall this beautiful item is the result of a five day manufacturing process. Cast from the actual mold in the Lucasfilm Archives, Han Solo in carbonite is made from fiberglass like the original, and is exquisitely painted with a three color process. The dimensions are as follows: height: 83", width: 36", depth: 14". Has eight control panels (non-working) and back side is enclosed. Weighs over 70 lbs. and is shipped in one container. Each one comes with certificate of authenticity signed by V.P. of Lucasfilm Licensing Howard Roffman and artist Mario Chiodo of Illusive Originals. Limited edition of 2,500 pieces, and the Fan Club will be getting some of the first ones available.

No foreign orders on this product
LLCS \$1,200.00



Still available for a limited time!



Cantina Band Member Action Figure

The Star Wars Fan Club celebrates the 20th Anniversary of *Star Wars* with our most exciting offer ever: the never-before-available Cantina Band Member action figure from Kenner! This is the first time Kenner has ever made an exclusive offer available only through the Fan Club, and it is being made available now for pre-order to ALL Jawa Trader customers.

The next shipment of figures will arrive in August, and pre-orders for that shipment are now open to all Jawa Trader customers, not just Fan Club members. There is no limit on the amount of figures that can be ordered. Each Cantina Band Member action figure comes with FIVE musical instruments, the most accessories of any *Star Wars* action figure to date, and it is

articulated at the neck, shoulders, legs, elbows, and wrists! Order five and Figrin D'an and the Modal Nodes can be yours.

Pre-orders are now being taken for figures shipping in October 1997. October shipment may sell out at any time. Special separate shipping charge applies to this item (see below). This figure will not be available on carded packaging. There is only one figure with one sculpt.

LKN19 One Figure: \$9.00

(plus \$1.50 special separate shipping charge)

LKN20 Five Figures: \$45.00

(plus \$5.00 special separate shipping charge)

More figures on page 24...

Cantina 20th Anniversary Toast Poster

Insider artist Tsuneo Sanda does it again with this amazing painting of the *Star Wars* cantina denizens raising their glasses in honor of *Star Wars*' 20th Anniversary. Printed on high quality poster stock this poster measures 24" x 36" and is available exclusively through the Fan Club.

LP57 \$14.95



OPERATORS ARE WAITING TO TAKE YOUR CALL FROM 6:30AM TO 10:00PM, MST!



X-wing Prop Replica Limited Edition of 1,977

The first edition in Icons' masterpiece series is this limited edition miniature replica, reproduced in a one-to-one size ratio with the original filming miniature found in the Lucasfilm Archives. Each piece is custom made by professional prop and miniature artisans, with wings 22 inches long, hand airbrushed accents, and exquisite detail work. Weathering and battle damage are accurately reproduced. Flies over a miniature portion of the Death Star (also reproduced from the original castings). The X-wing fighter is mounted on a museum quality custom display case complete with numbered plaque. Limited edition of 1,977.

LLC13 \$1,500.00



Darth Vader Lightsaber Prop Replica Ltd. Ed. of 10,000

An extremely accurate reproduction of the prop seen in *Star Wars: A New Hope*. Each custom lightsaber is hand assembled under the supervision of industry professionals and made of the finest quality machined components. Each piece is accompanied by a registered certificate of authenticity from the Lucasfilm Archives and includes a museum quality display case and a numbered plaque.

LLC14 \$349.95

Rawcliffe 20th Anniversary Mug and Keychain Set

Rawcliffe helps celebrate 20 years of *Star Wars* with this exclusive mug and keychain offer available only through the Jawa Trader. This fine black ceramic mug has a 12-ounce capacity and comes with a fine quality pewter logo of the official *Star Wars* 20 years design. The mug comes with a matching pewter keychain all for one low price.

LMUG9 \$18.50



TIE Fighter Prop Replica Limited Edition of 1,977

If you thought the Icons' X-wing fighter was cool, step over to the dark side and check out their TIE fighter, reproduced in a one-to-one size ratio with the original filming miniature found in the Lucasfilm Archives. Each piece is custom made by professional prop artisans, with hand airbrushed accents, and exquisite detail work. Flies over a miniature portion of the Death Star. The TIE fighter is mounted on a museum quality custom display case complete with numbered plaque. The Masterpiece Series *Star Wars* TIE fighter miniature: it's the closest you can get to owning the original.

LLC18 \$1,500.00



24k Gold Star Wars Cards Limited Edition of 1,000

Each 24k gold card is produced by the unique Authentic Images Photo Imaging process, and is encased in a 1/8" acrylic holder. Cards come with a black vacuum formed jewel case gift box with the *Star Wars* logo. Each image is a limited edition of 1,000 and is individually numbered.

LLC8	Han and Jabba	LLC9	Luke
LLC10	Leia	LLC11	Darth Vader
LLC12	Obi-Wan Kenobi		\$69.95 each



Sandtrooper and Dewback Collector Statuette

This gorgeous collector statuette is made from cold cast resin and depicts the scene from the *Star Wars Special Edition*. It measures 6" high and is a limited edition of 5,000.

LAPP25 \$60.00

Rancor Collector Statuette ▶ Limited Edition of 5,000

Measuring 6" high, this hand-painted cold-cast resin statuette is sculpted with fine artistic detail, and comes with a gift box and certificate of authenticity.

LAPP29 \$60.00



◀ Wedge Antilles Vinyl Doll

Finally, a Wedge you can display! This 10" vinyl doll of the Rebel hero comes with removable helmet and poseable arm.

LAPP28 \$17.00

Boba Fett Gold Card Limited Edition of 1,000

Boba Fett from *Authentic Images* is 24k gold engraved with unique Photo Imaging process. Card comes packaged in a 1/2" acrylic block with 4-color template, Certificate of Authenticity and is engraved with its own limited edition number all in a black leatherette jewel case. Edition size is limited to 1,000.

LLC17 \$69.95



Limited Edition Boba Fett Cloisonné Pin Collection

This limited edition set comes packaged with a *Star Wars* 20 years logo pin exclusively for the *Jawa Trader*. Fashioned from high quality metal with enamel finish. Comes with plastic case and includes two Boba Fett insignia pins.

LPN32 \$30.00



Luke Skywalker Bespin Jacket, Han Solo Vest

Created with high-quality fabric and stitching these costume replicas are superior in every way to the versions originally offered by the Fan Club fifteen years ago. Available only from the Official *Star Wars* Fan Club. Accept no cheap imitations, order the real thing today! Please note, vest sizes run large.

Luke Skywalker Bespin Jacket

LJK2M	Medium
LJK2L	Large
LJK2X	X-Large
\$59.95 each	

Han Solo Vest

LJK1M	Medium
LJK1L	Large
LJK1X	X-Large
\$79.95 each	

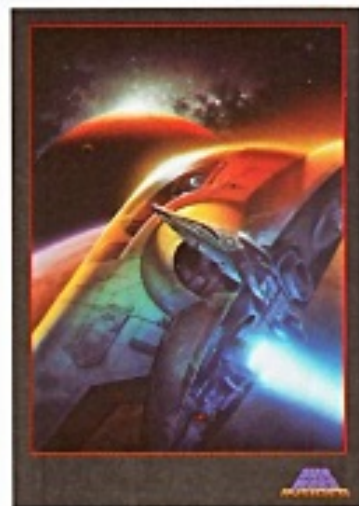


Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition One Sheets

These terrific movie posters featuring art by acclaimed artist Drew Struzan are now available through the Fan Club by way of an exclusive arrangement with 20th Century Fox. Measuring 27" x 40" and printed on high quality stock, these are the actual one-sided movie posters sent out to theatres nationwide. These are not reproductions. Order immediately, these limited quantities will go fast. Limit one per customer.

LP54
LP55
LP56

Star Wars
The Empire Strikes Back
Return of the Jedi
\$19.95 each



Slave I

Tsuneo Sanda does it again! For the first time *Slave I* takes center stage in a collectible poster. This lovingly rendered space scene depicts the lonely quest of the intergalactic bounty hunter. Squint and you can see Boba Fett, painted in accurate scale, at the center of the piece. Vibrant color printed on high quality stock, 24" x 36".

LP42 \$15.00



Yoda

The full page Yoda illustration from *Insider* #26 has been blown up to a spectacular 24" x 36" high quality poster. Beautifully painted by one of Japan's premier science fiction illustrators, Tsuneo Sanda, this poster is a must for fans of the 800 year old Jedi Master.

LP45 \$15.00



Millennium Falcon

This gorgeous, highly detailed 24" x 36" poster, features the *Millennium Falcon* escaping the clutches of the Empire while TIE fighters chase in pursuit. This beautiful poster is available exclusively through the Official *Star Wars Insider* and quantities are limited. Printed on high-quality stock. A must for any *Star Wars* collector.

LP40 \$14.00



George Lucas: The Creative Impulse

This Drew Struzan masterpiece is now available exclusively from the Fan Club as a high quality collectible poster. The front cover to the popular book *George Lucas: the Creative Impulse*. This poster measures 24" x 36" and is superbly printed with vibrant colors.

LP44 \$15.00

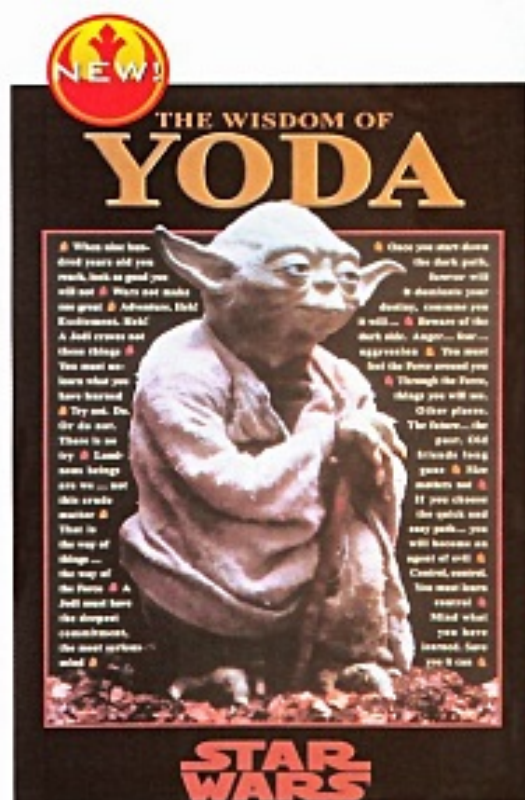


Star Wars Posters (above)
 LP46 All I Need to Know About Life I Learned from Star Wars \$8.00
 LP59 Star Wars Cantina \$7.95



Freedom Nadd Uprising Signed Art Print

This excellent art print by *Star Wars* maestro Dave Dorman depicts the great Jedi battle that occurred 4,000 years before Luke Skywalker. This painting appeared on the cover of the Dark Horse comic of the same name. The Freedom Nadd Uprising is printed on quality archival paper with light-fast inks and measures 16" x 20". All are signed and numbered by Dorman himself in a limited edition of 1,500.
 LP51 \$45.00



The Wisdom of Yoda Poster

Poster measures 24" x 36".

LP61 \$7.95



Dewback Patrol

From world-renowned illustrator Dave Dorman comes Dewback Patrol limited edition lithograph. Measuring an oversized 32" x 14" plus a 2" matting and framing border, Dewback Patrol is printed in glorious color on archival art paper. Limited to only 1,500 signed and numbered prints.

LP60 \$45.00



Vehicles of the Star Wars Universe

The specifications of starships for both the Galactic Empire and the Rebel Alliance are laid out beautifully on these full-color, 24" x 36" posters.

LP53 Vehicles of the Galactic Empire \$15.00

LP43 Vehicles of the Rebel Alliance \$15.00

**Darth Vader Keychain**

Keychain measures approximately 1 1/2" across and is made from finely crafted pewter.

LKC2 \$7.00

Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition Keychain

Measuring 1 1/2" x 1 1/4" this solid pewter ingot of the *Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition* logo makes a great gift for that hard-to-buy-for *Star Wars* fan.

LKC1 \$10.00

**TIE Interceptor**

The incredibly detailed TIE interceptor is the latest masterpiece from Rawcliffe. This large pewter sculpture weighs almost a half pound with wings that are 3 1/2" long. Mounted on a wooden base the TIE interceptor, one of the most interesting ship designs from the trilogy, looks great on a desk, a shelf, or as a hood ornament for your car! (Well, maybe not a hood ornament, but you'd be hard-pressed to find a cooler one.) Limited edition of 7,500.

LM32 \$94.95

**Exclusive Shadows Ceramic Mug and Pewter Keychain Set**

This exclusive set has the *Star Wars* logo in red on finely crafted pewter, on both a *Shadows* mug and keychain. Limited quantities available.

LMUG8 Ceramic Mug \$24.00

LM28 *Outrider* \$45.00

LM27 C-3PO \$17.50

**Pewter Star Wars Ships and Characters**

LM4 Yoda
LM5 Ewok
Each 1 1/2" tall
\$12.50

LM6 R2-D2 (1 1/2")
LM7 Princess Leia (2 1/2")
LM8 Luke Skywalker (2 1/2")
LM9 Han Solo (2 1/2" tall)
\$17.50

LM10 Stormtrooper
LM11 Boba Fett

LM18 Bib Fortuna
LM19 Admiral Ackbar
LM20 Gamorrean Guard
LM21 Emperor
Each 2 1/2" tall
\$19.50

LM12 Chewbacca (3" tall)
LM13 Obi-Wan Kenobi (2 1/2")
\$27.50
LM14 Darth Vader (2 1/2")
\$30.00

LM15 A-wing Fighter
LM16 B-wing Fighter
LM22 Small TIE Fighter
Each 3" long
\$40.00

LM23 Snowspeeder
LM24 Y-wing
LM25 Small X-wing
LM26 Shuttle Tydirium
Each Approx. 3" Long
\$45.00



LM29 Slave I \$35.00
LM30 Sail Barge \$45.00
LM31 Lando \$19.50

LM17 Imperial Star Destroyer
4" long
\$75.00

TWO-SIDED
DEATH STARTWO-SIDED
PLANET HOTH

BOBA FETT



CANTINA BAND

Star Wars T-Shirts

From the award winning T-shirt design company Liquid Blue comes a new collection of stunning Star Wars shirt designs. Each beautifully detailed and colored silkscreen design is printed on uniquely dyed 100% cotton shirts. These are some of the most eye-catching Star Wars shirts ever!

LTS40L,X,XX
LTS41L,X,XX
LTS42M,L,X,XX
LTS44L,X,XX
LTS45L,X,XX
LTS46M,L,X,XX
LTS60M,L,X

Chewbacca \$25.00
Boba Fett \$25.00
Yoda \$25.00
Planet Hoth \$27.00
Death Star \$27.00
TIE Fighter \$27.00
Cantina Band (not Liquid Blue) \$15.00



CHEWBACCA



TIE FIGHTER



YODA



Star Wars Caps

- LCAP7 Vader/Black Mesh (not shown) \$16.00
 LCAP8 Star Wars 20 Years Logo: \$10.00
 LCAP9 Star Wars Illusion Logo: \$12.00

Luke/X-Wing Light Flashing Light Belt Bag

LBB5 \$10.95



TWO-SIDED SPEEDER BIKES

Star Wars Two-Sided T-Shirts

LTS53M,L,X

Hoth Battle
\$16.00 each

LT554M,L,X

Speeder Bikes



TWO-SIDED HOTH BATTLE



Star Wars Beach Towels

Take Star Wars to the beach with these fiber reactive beach towels. Each towel measures 30" x 60".

LBT1
LBT3

Darth Vader
C-3PO & R2-D2

LBT2

Stormtrooper
\$19.95 each



Star Wars Masks

These fantastic replicas from the Star Wars saga can be proudly displayed at home or worn at the next galactic party!

- L26A Darth Vader (plastic) \$58.00
- L26B Stormtrooper (plastic) \$72.00
- L26H Boba Fett (plastic) \$72.00
- L26L Emperor's Royal Guard \$86.00



LT21

LT11



LT18



Star Wars Ties

These ties are the perfect accessory for all true fans. Each tie is made of polyester unless otherwise indicated.

- LT11 Silk Darth Vader Pattern: \$25.00
- LT18 Death Star Rising: \$13.00
- LT21 Silk Faces Pattern: \$24.95



Star Wars Ringer T-Shirts

- LT573 Princess Leia T-Shirt
- LT574 Chewie T-Shirt
- LT575 Artoo T-Shirt
- L, XL \$17.95 each



Star Wars T-Shirts

- LT564 Darth Vader
- LT568 Yoda
- LT567 Boba Fett
- LT566 Tusken Raider
- LT565 The Emperor
- M, L, XL
- \$15.00 each

OPERATORS ARE WAITING TO TAKE YOUR CALL FROM 6:30AM TO 10:00PM, MST!



Star Wars Life-Size Stand-ups

Each of these life-size cardboard stand-ups are approximately 5 1/2 feet tall.

LSU1	C-3PO	LSU7	Darth Vader
LSU2	Luke Skywalker	LSU8	Yoda
LSU3	Stormtrooper	LSU9	Chewbacca
LSU4	Han Solo	LSU10	Boba Fett
LSU5	Princess Leia	LSU11	Han Solo in Carbonite
LSU6	R2-D2	LSU12	Darth Vader with Lightsaber

LSU13	Jawa (not shown)
LSU14	Imperial Royal Guard (not shown)
LSU16	Admiral Ackbar (not shown)
LSU17	Princess Leia Slave Outfit
LSU18	Tusken Raider (not shown)
LSU19	Emperor Palpatine (not shown)
LSU20	Obi-Wan Kenobi
	\$35.00 each



Star Wars Finest Card Set

Set of 90 all-chromium cards of Star Wars characters.

LTC39 \$75.00



The Empire Strikes Back WideVision Trading Cards

Basic set of 144 cards, no special or bonus cards included.

LTC9 \$39.95



Dark Empire II Metal Collector Cards

This new set of metallic cards has been produced to the most exacting standards and features beautiful artwork from *Dark Empire II*.

LTC33 \$15.95



The Art of Ralph McQuarrie Metal Collector's Cards Autographed Edition

This popular set is now available signed by Ralph McQuarrie himself. Signed sets are strictly limited to 1,100.

LTC37 \$69.95

LTC34 The cards unsigned. \$49.95



Metal Return of the Jedi Card Set and Collector's Tin

The third in a series of metal collector's cards from CUL. Twenty new cards featuring *Return of the Jedi*.

LTC30 \$65.00



Return of the Jedi WideVision Trading Cards

Basic set of 144 cards, no special or bonus cards included.

LTC28 \$38.00



Hoth SWCCG Expansion Set

This new expansion set for the ever-popular *Star Wars* Customizable Card Game has different weapons, new vehicles, and deeper strategies. Have you ever seen an Imperial walker down a group of Jawas? Well now you can when you add these 162 new cards from *The Empire Strikes Back* to your *Star Wars* Customizable Card Game. Buy them by the 36 pack box, or get a set of six individual packs. These cards are limited edition and each box has a rules supplement.

LTC6G Box of 36 Booster Packs: \$73.95
LTC6H Set of Six Booster Packs: \$18.00



Star Wars First Anthology

Star Wars First Anthology contains two white border, randomized 60-card Premiere starter decks, two 15-card *A New Hope* expansion packs, two 15-card *Hoth* expansion packs, six never-before-seen white border, rare preview cards (from the *Special Edition*), one free Jedi pack, a revised rules supplement, all packed in a durable and attractive 800-card storage box.

LTC6K \$32.00



Dagobah SWCCG Expansion Set

Land on Dagobah with this new 180-card SWCCG expansion set, with 26 more rare cards than previous sets! New cards include bounty hunters, asteroids, TIE bomber, Jedi Training cards, and Yoda. New 9-card packs and one rarity level mean entire sets can be collected quicker and easier. Be the first on your block to get a space slug card.

LTC6I Box of 36 Booster Packs: \$125.00
LTC6J Set of Six Booster Packs: \$14.95



A New Hope Expansion Set

If you haven't tried Decipher's *Star Wars* CCG, wait no longer. Not only does this new set add more fun and excitement to an already great game but the original graphics and images are incredible!

LTC6E Box of 36 Booster Packs: \$73.95
LTC6F Set of Six Booster Packs: \$15.00



Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition Widevision Card Set

72-card set of the *Star Wars* Trilogy Special Edition, with select shots from *Empire* and *Jedi*.

LTC41 \$40.00



Empire Strikes Back Metal Series 2 Card Set

LTC40 20 CARD SET: \$50.00



Shadows of the Empire Metal Collector's Card Set

This 6-card set features art from the *Shadows of the Empire* Comic Series.

LTC38 \$13.95



LER3 A-wing \$7.50



LER6 Y-wing \$5.95



LER5 X-wing \$5.95



LER4 Star Destroyer \$7.50

Star Wars Balsa Gliders and Catapults

Build these popular *Star Wars* vehicles then fly them in your own space adventure. Made of top quality, pre-cut balsa wood with detailed printed markings. You can hand launch the Y-

wing and X-wing into the air to support the Rebel Alliance. The A-wing and Star Destroyer are constructed from the same quality materials but are catapult launched. These spacecraft include a plastic launcher and rubber band.

X-wing Model Rocket Starter Set

Blast-off with this X-wing and join in the epic space adventure of *Star Wars*! Easily assembled and comes complete with an electrical launch controller, launch pad, and parachute. Detailed plastic parts and self stick decals allows you to fly an X-wing starfighter just like Luke Skywalker. The X-wing can fly over 400 feet high and you can launch it again and again!



LER1 \$32.95



Princess Leia Pre-Painted Vinyl Kit

The first Princess Leia pre-painted vinyl model kit is here! This 1/6 scale kit has remarkable detail and depicts Leia in a classic pose: with blaster in hand, ready to fight it out with the stormtroopers.

L164L \$29.50



Exploding Death Star Model Rocket Starter Set

Now you can intimidate star systems with the power of the Death Star space station. The flying model rocket "bursts apart in the sky" at peak altitude. The starter set comes complete with an electrical launch controller, a launch pad, two model rocket engines, and more! The Death Star can fly over 250 feet high and can be used over and over again.

LER2 \$32.95



BATTLE OF HOTH

Star Wars Model Kits

- L25P Battle of Hoth Action Scene: \$13.20
- L25D Millennium Falcon: \$17.20
- LMK4 Boba Fett's Slave I: \$15.95 (not shown)
- L25N Shuttle Tydirium: \$12.95



Cutaway Millennium Falcon

For the first time in a model this famous ship is fully revealed, with removable top panels that show off the detailed interior with computers, lounge area, cockpit, and weapons bay.

LMK9 \$28.95



Speeder Bike Model Kit
LMK11 \$20.95



Boba Fett Vinyl Model Figure Kits

Add to your collection with these new vinyl model kits from Screamin'. Each highly detailed kit, molded in high-quality vinyl, is ready to assemble and paint.

- L164D Boba Fett 1/4 Scale (18" tall) \$69.95 (left)
L164K Boba Fett 1/6 scale \$66.00 (right)

Greedo Vinyl Doll

Forget Boba Fett! Greedo is the cult Star Wars personality of the 90's. Stands approximately 10" tall.

LAPP26 \$17.00



Jabba and His Throne Room Action Scene Model Kit

A large vacuum-formed base with molded styrene walls, recaptures the throne room of Jabba the Hutt. Includes Jabba, Leia, Boba Fett, and Sy Snootles and the Max Rebo Band. Measures 16.75" x 11".

LMK7 \$14.95



Star Wars Special Edition Soundtrack Deluxe Limited Quantity Collector's Edition

For the first time the brilliantly restored score for Star Wars is presented in this deluxe 2 CD set with tracks chronologically arranged to match the movie. Each CD is laser engraved with a picture and comes with over 20 pages of new liner notes. Includes newly recorded tracks and newly discovered unreleased material! Also available are *The Empire Strikes Back Special Edition* and *Return of the Jedi Special Edition* soundtracks. Order these great CD packages individually, or together as a set for a special price. Once these limited edition versions are gone they won't be offered again.

- LAC30 *Star Wars Special Edition Soundtrack*: \$39.95
LAC31 *The Empire Strikes Back Special Edition Soundtrack*: \$39.95

The Illustrated Star Wars Universe

The Illustrated Star Wars Universe delves deeply into the planets of Star Wars with over 25 new color paintings by Ralph McQuarrie and rarely-seen conceptual work from the films. Written by Star Wars author Kevin J. Anderson. A great coffee table book!

LBK32 \$36.00

Star Wars: The Essential Guide to Vehicles and Vessels

This exhaustive, fully illustrated book features detailed information on the most important vehicles, spaceships, and battle machines in the Star Wars universe. Includes ships from *Shadows of the Empire*!

LBK42 \$18.00



Xizor's Virago Model Kit

With this new kit from Ertl/AMT you can build one of the coolest ships from *Shadows of the Empire*.

LMK12 \$17.95

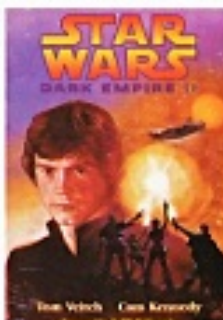


Battle of the Bounty Hunters Pop-up Comic Book

A pop-up book that takes no prisoners! Dark Horse Comics has put together some unbelievable illustrations from artist Chris Moeller for this, the first pop-up comic book. Every page pops up!

LBK43 \$17.95





Heir to the Empire Hardcover Limited Edition of 10,000

The popular *Heir to the Empire* graphic novel is now available in a signed and numbered hardcover edition. Strictly limited to 1,000 copies. Trade paperback also available.

LBK79 Ltd. Ed. Hardcover \$79.95
LBK68 Trade Paperback \$19.95

Tales of the Jedi Trade Paperbacks

LBK24 *Tales of the Jedi*
LBK62 *The Sith War*
LBK63 *Dark Lords of the Sith*
\$17.95 each

Dark Empire Trade Paperbacks

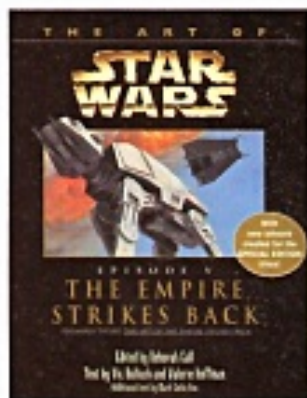
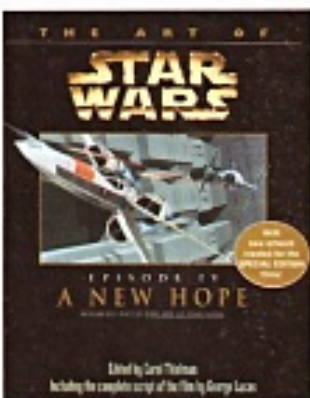
LBK56 *Dark Empire*
LBK57 *Dark Empire II*
\$17.95 each



Star Wars Roleplaying Game Hardcover 2nd Ed.

West End Games keeps making great *Star Wars* roleplaying material, but the 2nd Edition of their popular *Star Wars* Roleplaying game rulebook in hardcover is their most ambitious offering yet. Completely revised and updated, this book now has 288 pages and full color illustrations throughout. This is everything you need to get started roleplaying in the *Star Wars* universe. Great both for the experienced gamer and the absolute beginner.

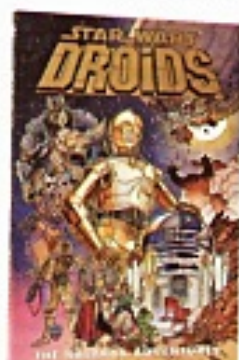
LBK51 *Star Wars Roleplaying Game Hardcover 2nd Ed.* \$30.00
LBK66 *Gamemaster Screen* \$10.00



The Art of Star Wars Special Edition

Includes new 16 page supplements with great behind-the-scenes production material from the Special Editions.

LBK81 *Art of Star Wars SE*
LBK82 *Art of The Empire Strikes Back SE*
LBK83 *Art of Return of the Jedi SE*
\$18.95 each



Droids: The Kalarba Adventures Signed Hardcover Ltd. Ed.

The latest collectible from Dark Horse is a signed and numbered hardcover edition of this popular *Droids* collection, with an introduction by Anthony Daniels. Limited to 1,000 copies. Signed by Anthony Daniels himself.

LBK64 *Signed Hardcover:* \$99.95
LBK36 *Unsigned Softcover:* \$17.95



Dark Empire II Signed Hardcover Limited Edition

Packaging doesn't get any nicer than this. One of the all time great *Star Wars* comic classics hard-bound, with slip-case, and signed by creators Tom Veitch and Cam Kennedy. Strictly limited edition of 1,000 copies.

LBK37 \$99.95



Limited Special Edition Journal

Hardcover journal comes with free bookmark and is a limited edition of 10,000.

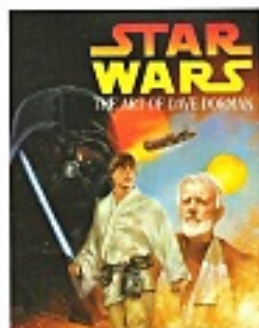
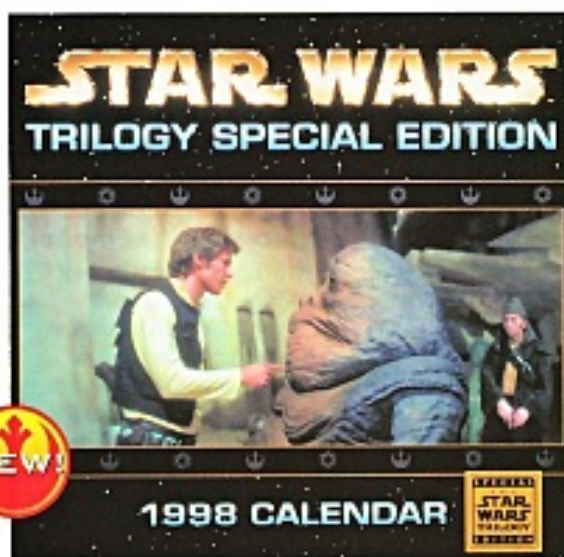
LBK86 \$9.95



Star Wars Chronicles

Originally published in Japan and sold for over \$300, this is quite possibly the ultimate *Star Wars* photo book, and it has now come to our shores. Over 300 pages of solid photos from the *Star Wars* saga, including rare material on the "Star Wars Holiday Special" and the Ewok telefilms. Many photos have never been published before. Includes several fold-out pages and a luxurious die-cut slip-case. The most complete collection of Lucasfilm photos and production material ever assembled. Words cannot possibly convey how magnificent this volume is. A must for *Star Wars* collectors.

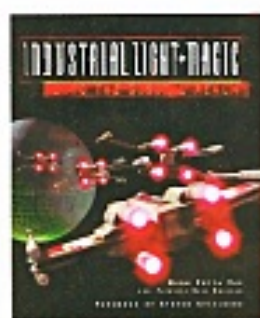
LBK84 \$149.00



Star Wars: The Art of Dave Dorman

For the first time all of Dave Dorman's *Star Wars* art is bound in one collection. Features over 70 full-color paintings, many full-page, including some never seen before!

LBK71 \$24.95



Industrial Light & Magic: Into the Digital Realm

Lavishly illustrated in full color throughout, this successor and companion to the best-selling *ILM: The Art of Special Effects* re-creates all the magic and technology of ILM's second groundbreaking decade. This hefty 10" x 12" coffee table hardback has 358 pages and a foreword written by Steven Spielberg.

First 100 copies autographed by Mark Cotta Vaz.

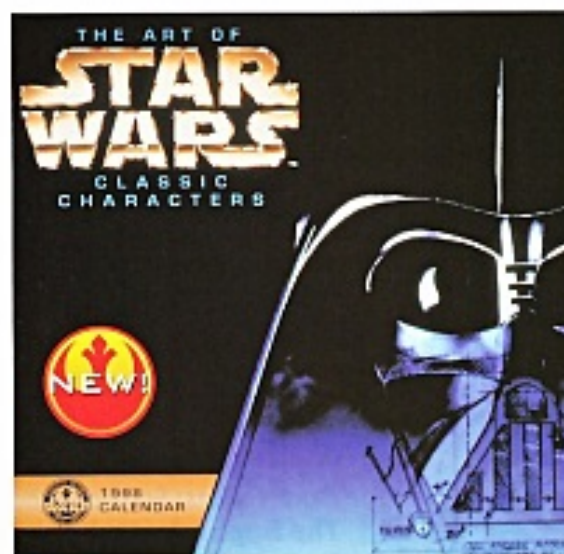
LBK47 \$80.00



Cinefex '65 ILM 20th Anniversary Issue

Special 146 page issue commemorating the 20th Anniversary of ILM with new exclusive interviews with George Lucas and Dennis Muren. Also includes a special look at the making of the trilogy and a recap of every film ILM has ever worked on. Exquisitely written with lots of photos. An absolute must for special effects enthusiasts!

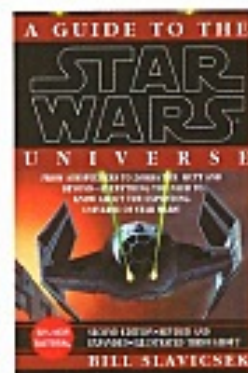
LBK41 \$10.00



1998 Calendars

LPM22 *Star Wars* 1998 Classic Art Calendar

LPM23 *Star Wars* Trilogy Special Edition 1998 Calendar
\$12.95 each



A Guide to the Star Wars Universe Second Edition, Revised and Expanded

The Second Edition of *The Guide* includes completely new and updated material and is now 448 pages long. This is the one all-inclusive sourcebook for the *Star Wars* universe.

LBK50 \$10.00

PepsiCo Australia 30 Piece Special Edition Tazo set with Connectors

Another exclusive Jawa Trader warehouse find! This tazo set was only available in Australia, but now you too can get this hard to find foreign collectible. Tazos are plastic discs, like pogs, with Star Wars pictures on them. Each set comes with 30 different tazos and 3 connectors that can each create a ship with the tazos. Limited amount available. First come, first served!

LTZ1 \$7.95



Still available:

"I'd Just As Soon Kiss a Wookiee!" – The Quotable Star Wars

The Force can be with fans all the time thanks to this pocket-sized paperback collecting all the most famous lines from the most successful science-fiction film saga ever created. Written by *Insider* columnist Stephen Sansweet. First 100 copies autographed by Stephen Sansweet.

LBK48 \$5.99

Ships of the Fleet Pop-up Books

Two new books with the classic vehicles of good and evil popping up at you on every page. Includes fantastic four page fold-out.

LBK45 *Rebel Alliance: Ships of the Fleet*
LBK46 *Galactic Empire: Ships of the Fleet*
\$15.95 each



Star Wars Trilogy Radio Drama

The wait is over! *Return of the Jedi* radio drama is here, and now you can get the final chapter of the *Star Wars* radio drama individually or in a special set featuring the whole trilogy. The *Star Wars* radio dramas go way beyond the movies with material heard nowhere else. *Return of the Jedi* was written by Brian Daley, and features the voices of Anthony Daniels, Ed Asner, and John Lithgow. Like radio drama director John Madden says, "You may think you've seen the movies; wait till you hear it."

LAC23 *Return of the Jedi* Radio Drama CD: \$34.95
LAC24 *Return of the Jedi* Radio Drama Cassette: \$25.95
LAC26 Complete Trilogy on CD: \$135.00
LAC28 Collector's Limited Edition (includes exclusive making-of CD): \$195.00



Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire Graphic Novel

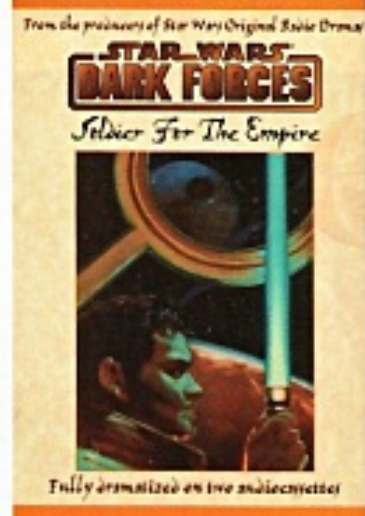
LBK99 \$17.95



Shadows of the Empire Enhanced Soundtrack CD

Joel McNeely and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra bring you over 50 minutes of grand music inspired by *Shadows of the Empire*. Also features an interactive CD-ROM which includes Nintendo 64 screen shots and much more.

LAC21 \$17.99



Dark Forces: Soldier For The Empire Audio Book

The *Star Wars* saga continues with this story that brings to light the events that ripped apart the life of young Kyle Katarn. This vivid audio drama tells the tale of the hero from *Dark Forces*.

LAC34 \$16.95



Star Wars Chewbacca Bowcaster
Authentic styling straight from the movie! Fires suction-cup foam darts.
LKN38 \$26.95

Star Wars Light Vehicle Assortment



SPEEDER BIKE WITH LUKE SKYWALKER IN ENDOR GEAR
LKN37 \$15.95



IMPERIAL SPEEDER BIKE WITH SCOUT TROOPER
LKN35 \$15.95



Electronic Imperial Star Destroyer



Electronic Rebel Blockade Runner



Two authentic replicas with electronic lights and real movie sounds! Comes with display stand.
LKN39 Electronic Rebel Blockade Runner \$36.95
LKN40 Electronic Imperial Star Destroyer \$36.95



Darth Vader THX Watch

This beautiful new watch, featuring the face of Darth Vader and the THX logo has a classic design. Featuring a black genuine leather band, this watch is produced by Lucasfilm's THX division and is a hard to find collectible! Quantities are limited.
LW2 \$51.95

Darth Vader Platinum Mug

This special platinum Darth Vader mug comes in a special gift box and is limited to 1997 production. Stand not included.
LAPP27 \$15.00



Star Wars Keychains and Pins

The Force will be with you when you walk around with these beautiful cloisonne pins and keychains. Perfect for Star Wars fans in any galaxy. Priced as marked.

- LPN1 Imperial Emblem \$6.00
- LPN2 Small Rebel Alliance Logo \$4.00
- LPN29 Large Rebel Alliance Logo \$8.00
- LPN16 Millennium Falcon Keychain \$5.00
- LPN13 New Republic Keychain \$5.00



Star Wars Full-Color Clock

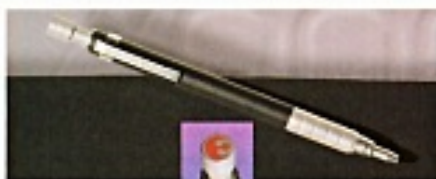
This clock uses the best electronic quartz crystal, and has a lifetime warranty.
L109 \$34.00



Star Wars Insider 20th Anniversary T-shirt

We're excited about our new logo, and we want to give you a chance to wear it with our first ever *Star Wars Insider* T-shirt. These nice black 100% cotton T-shirts have the *Star Wars Insider* logo in bright orange/yellow gradation on the front and the *Star Wars* 20 Years logo silk-screened on the sleeve. Show everyone you are on "Team Insider" with this cool shirt, which will only be offered in 1997.

LTS38S	Kids Small	LTS39M	Adult Med.
LTS38M	Kids Med.	LTS39L	Adult Lg.
LTS38L	Kids Lg.	LTS39X	Adult X-Lg.
	\$7.95 each		\$9.95 each
LTS39XX	Adult XX-Large		\$11.95



Rebel Fighter Pen

The space pen that can go anywhere in the universe.

LPEN1 \$15.00



A-wing Calculator

A replica of the Rebel fighter with a pop-up door that reveals the solar calculator, with three built-in A-wing sound effects. Your math homework will never be the same.

LTG6 \$15.95



Sounds of the Force

Shaped like the *Millennium Falcon* itself, the *Sounds of the Force* has over 40 unique sound effects from the *Star Wars* films—from the Emperor's quiet chuckle to the roar of the Wookiee! Play against friends or the computer, either way you're bound to hear some great sounds along the way!

LTG3 \$49.95

R2-D2 Personal Cassette Player

Take R2-D2 with you wherever you go! This personal tape player in the shape of the famous R2-D2 will play your favorite songs. Grab your earphones and belt clip and go!

LTG5 \$23.95



Stormtrooper Room Alarm with Laser Target Game

Protect your Imperial secrets from the Rebel Alliance with this 13 1/2" tall motion detector room alarm. A detection range up to 4 feet, 3 SFX warning sounds from the *Star Wars* trilogy, and a Han Solo laser blaster with SFX for target shooting.

LTG1 \$32.50



Star Wars Galactic Battle

Are you ready to defend the Rebel fleet against the Imperial armada? A multi-positioning battle zone with hex based grid, 10 different official *Star Wars* vehicles with authentic sound effects including 20 different phrases. Align your ships, input their position and prepare for battle!

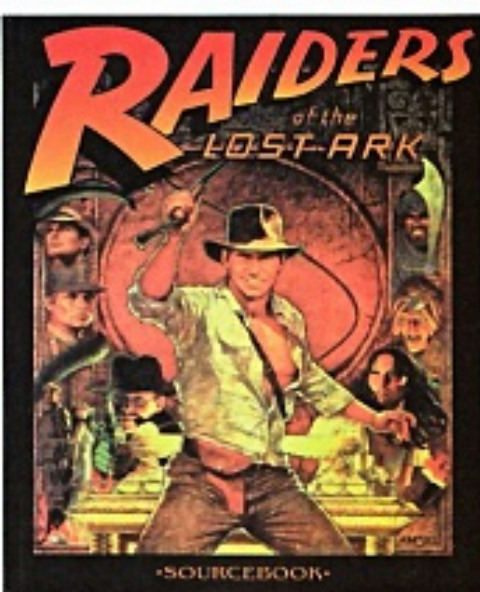
LTG2 \$49.95

Quiz Wiz

Are you ready to test your knowledge of the *Star Wars* universe? Over 1,000 questions that allows you to answer the questions in sequence or randomly! Choose from *Star Wars*, *The Empire Strikes Back* or *Return of the Jedi*. Each with its own question and answer book, complete with pictures from the movie.

LTG4 \$44.95



**Indiana Jones Fedora**

Available again, this high-quality felt construction hat is an authentic reproduction of the head gear made famous by Harrison Ford.

L58BS	Small
L58BM	Medium
L58BL	Large
L58BX	Extra Large
\$36.00 each	

Indiana Jones Three Comics Set

Indiana Jones and the Golden Fleece, and *Indiana Jones and the Shrine of the Sea Devil* comic set.

Two complete stories in this three issue comic set from Dark Horse. These comics are now out of print!

LBK96 \$7.50 set

**World Of Indiana Jones Roleplaying Game Box Set (at left)**

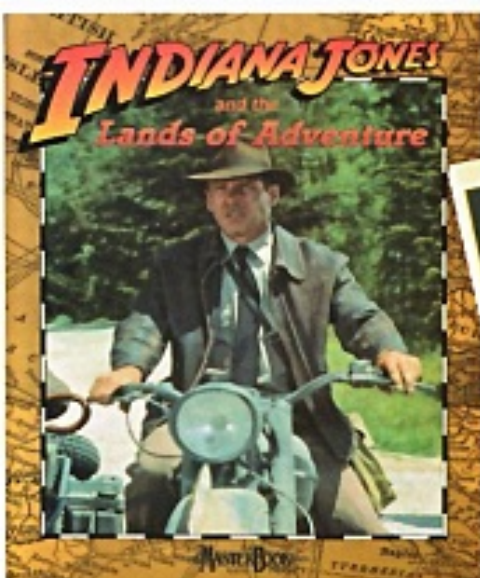
If adventure has a name it must be Indiana Jones, and for adventure roleplaying West End's *World of Indiana Jones* Box Set is it! Contains everything you need to start a campaign including MasterBook, *Indiana Jones WorldBook*, two ten-sided die and card deck for use with the MasterBook system.

LBK72 \$30.00

**Indiana Jones MicroMachines Box Set**

You want *Indiana Jones* toys? We got 'em. This excellent set of MicroMachines includes vehicles from all three *Indiana Jones* movies.

LTY27 \$18.95

**Indiana Jones Roleplaying Adventures**

Add to your *Indiana Jones* role-playing adventures with these exciting sourcebooks and supplements.

LBK87	<i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i> Hardcover Sourcebook: \$25.00
LBK88	<i>Sky Pirates and Other Tales</i> : \$15.00
LBK89	<i>Indiana Jones: Land and Adventures</i> : \$15.00





LUKE SKYWALKER IN HOTH GEAR
& 2-1B MEDIC DROID



MOMAW NADDON
& R5-D4



AT-ST
DRIVER



BOSSK



HOTH REBEL
SOLDIER



TIE FIGHTER
PILOT



BOBA FETT

Action Figure Sets
Kenner action figures are here!
Your favorite characters are
available in three sets of two,
and four individual figures.

LKN41 Luke Skywalker in Hoth
Gear & 2-1B Medic Droid
\$13.95/set
LKN45 Momaw Naddon & A5D5
\$13.95 / set

LKN21 TIE Fighter Pilot
LKN25 Boba Fett
LKN44 AT-ST Driver
LKN42 Bossk
LKN47 Hoth Rebel Soldier

LKN30 Greedo (not shown)
LKN31 Death Star Gunner (not shown)
LKN32 Sandtrooper (not shown)
LKN33 Lando Calrissian (not shown)
\$6.95 each

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"On Broadway, I was able to play the Elephant Man, Mozart, the Groucho Marx role from *Room Service*."



industry as one of the nicest guys in Hollywood. Looking back at the *Star Wars* shoot in 1976, Hamill recalled the film's initial production, in which Hamill acted primarily with Anthony Daniels and Alec Guinness before joining up with the rest of the cast in London.

"I remember with particular fondness," he said, "working with Anthony Daniels in the desert. We were there with the rest of the crew, yet pretty much on our own, and I would say that we bonded there. We were the younger people on the movie, and I think sometimes [in England] we would feel left out. But we had our times together in the desert, and seeing the movie again I realized how much I enjoyed working with him then and how much I miss the guy now."

Daniels concurred. "Mark and I used to drive to work together in the desert," Daniels recalled, "and we would laugh about each other's lines, because they seemed so corny. Working on the film, we did scenes in bits and pieces that were chronologically out of order, so sometimes it seemed that the whole thing was rather silly. Of course," Daniels quipped, "I would get the last laugh, because I could actually say my lines without any one seeing me wince under the costume."

If Hamill was wincing at a scenario that found him sharing most of screen time with two odd-couple droids, he didn't show it onscreen. Indeed, the believability of Luke's relationship with C-3PO and R2-D2 was crucial in allowing the audience to accept much of what was presented in *Star Wars*. Said Daniels, "One of the reasons that C-3PO worked so well was that Mark treated C-3PO as a real person. Throughout the movies, we often see Threepio through Luke's eyes, and his treatment of the character went along way toward giving

Threepio a humanity."

After completing the first *Star Wars* trilogy, Hamill, feeling pigeonholed as a heroic leading man, returned almost immediately to Broadway, even singing and dancing in the 1985 musical *Harrigan & Hart*, which earned him a Drama Desk nomination. "I went to Broadway because that's where I found the comedic roles that I wanted to do," Hamill said. "I wasn't getting the really interesting character roles that I wanted in film. But on Broadway, I

was able to play the Elephant Man, Mozart, the Groucho Marx role from *Room Service*. They were all challenging for me, which is what I wanted as an actor."

Despite the glamour of the stage, Hamill found even more challenges behind the microphone, as a voice-over artist. In fact, his career as a voice-over actor had begun before *Star Wars*, with the 1973-75 CBS cartoon *Jeannie*, Hanna-Barbera's spin-off of *I Dream of Jeannie*, in which Hamill provided the voice of Corry, who discovers a magic genie and her huge but bumbling apprentice Babu. But it was *Batman: The Animated Series*, the 1992 Fox Network cartoon in which Hamill's howling, cackling portrayal of the Joker almost stole the show from the Dark Knight himself, that firmly established Hamill as one of the top voice-over talents in the industry.

"Voice-over work is not unlike the original radio dramas," Hamill said, "and I consider it to be acting at its purest. My generation of actors missed out on radio acting to a large extent, and I am glad to be doing this type of work now. It's extremely challenging, because the emotion and the humanity of the character is expressed only using the voice. You can't rely on physical actions to portray the character."

Hamill, who also voiced the Joker in both the *Batman* animated feature film and Sega Genesis game, recently reprised the role in an episode of the WB network's new *Superman* cartoon in which



"Voice-over" work is not unlike the original radio dramas, and I consider it to be acting at its purest."

Batman and Superman join forces. "It's interesting how the writers were able to team up these two men, one being a super-power and the other a mortal," he said. "There is a real dichotomy they created when they have Bruce Wayne and Lois Lane have a fling. Joker, in this cartoon, is extremely flamboyant and over-the-top."

The actor also revealed that there's plenty more Joker on the way. "There is going to be a new batch of animated *Batman* cartoons released, following the last two-year lull," Hamill said. "I think the producers wanted to hold back on creating new episodes until the Fox contract ran out, so they could take the show to the WB network. I recently did my first Joker in two years, and it was fun."

After taking on the Joker, Hamill's voice-over career really took flight. He plays Col. Christopher Blair in Origin System's blockbuster CD-ROM adventure games *Wing Commander III: Heart of the Tiger* and *Wing Commander IV: The*



Price of Freedom. The success of the games led to Hamill reprising the role in the USA network's 13-episode animated series *Wing Commander: Academy*. "When I first began work on *Wing Commander*, I knew it would be a hit," he confided. "But its success surprised even me." He recently completed his final installment: *Wing Commander: Prophecy*.

Continuing his forays into the digital realm, Hamill can also be heard on the Sci-Fi Channel's web site, *Dominion* (www.scifi.com), narrating a multimedia version of Franz Kafka's "The Country Doctor" on the site's Seeing Ear Theater. "Mark really works within all the different media that are of interest to many computer users," said Sci-Fi Channel's Sharon Levy.

But surprisingly, Hamill sees his work on Bruce Willis' 1996 cartoon *Bruno the Kid*, as one of his greatest achievements in animation. "*Bruno the Kid* was a milestone in my career," he said, "because I was utilized to do three different voices, which means that I am capable of being what is called a 'utility player' — an actor who can do voices, accents, and provide versatility on command. It's taken me four years of hard work to get to that level."

But the actor concedes, "You have to be careful what you wish for. Now, three to four days a week, I'm doing voice-overs. Right now, I'm busy working on the animated *Blues Brothers* for UPN." The prime-time series follows the adventures of John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd's classic characters, who originated on NBC's *Saturday Night Live* before embarking on a concert tour, a string of successful albums, and their own classic 1980 feature film (called, appropriately, *The Blues Brothers*).

The cartoon *Blues Brothers* recasts Aykroyd & the late Belushi with their brothers, Peter and Jim, and also features the voice talents of original *SNL* stars Laraine Newman and Don Novello. But it's Hamill who is providing many of the series



"When I first began work on Wing Commander, I knew it would be a hit."



'utility' voices — and earning the praise of his co-stars. "Talking with Mark and hearing the quality of his voice and the rate of his speech during regular conversation, you would never know this guy is one of the most versatile voice-over talents in Los Angeles," enthused Jim Belushi. "He can do probably 50 characters — change his voice rate, quality, tone. His throat is like six different instruments in an orchestra. He has an amazing instrument — and he's funny."

Proving that point, Hamill recently appeared on *Saturday Night Live*, playing himself (to wild audience applause) in a home-shopping spoof in which *SNL* cast members Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan attempt to auction off a "real Mark Hamill" to *Star Wars* memorabilia collectors. He also put in a hilarious cameo on CBS' *Late Show with David Letterman*, again playing himself in a fictitious new series that featured Hamill directing parallel parking on a busy city street, and on NBC's hit alien sitcom *3rd Rock from the Sun*.

But while the Special Edition has put Hamill in more demand than ever, the star is staying focused on his graphic novel *Black Pearl*, which he originally penned as a screenplay. His desire to take over the role of director on a *Black Pearl* feature stems from his Broadway experience in *Harrigan & Hart* — and from the wisdom of his children. "Harrigan & Hart changed my attitude about not being able to have a say-so in the production," he said. "I was in dual productions of the show, and when we moved to Broadway, I really felt that some of the changes they made were wrong. But I was only a player and did not have the authority to say anything about it." Instead, like Luke witnessing the death of his friend Biggs, Hamill had no choice but to watch the show go down in flames.

"In deciding that I wanted to direct *The Black Pearl*," he

explained, "I accepted the fact that if I do not own something, then I do not have the right to dictate what is right and wrong. One evening, while driving home from a movie, I was discussing the film with my children — actually, I was pointing out all the flaws that I saw. As only children can, they said, 'Dad, if you think you could do better, why don't you just do it?' So I am going to give it a try on this project."

"My original concept," Hamill continued, "was to film it in L.A. with a hand-held camera — a lean, mean, modest budget film that would be in-

dependent and could break the rules of the major studios. I wanted to keep the budget modest and concentrate on the story while making a comment on personal responsibility and the nation's appetite for one tawdry, sleazy story that exploits the worst in man, versus seeking the story about what is the best in man. Our fascination with the lurid subject matters of talk and tabloid shows is another wrinkle in our national fabric."

Though he's built up a sterling reputation behind the scenes, Hamill has not completely shied away from the camera. He has starred in several independent films, including *The Guyver* and *Midnight Ride*, and of course he was the star of 1997's first \$100+ million blockbuster, the *Star Wars* Special Edition, which recently had its gala, Royal premiere in London. Hamill attended, along with Lucas, Daniels, Peter Mayhew (Chewie), Kenny Baker (Arttoo) — and Britain's Prince Charles.

"It was interesting to sit next to Prince Charles, who commented all throughout the movie," Hamill said of the U.K. premiere. "In one scene, where we were all running to the Millennium Falcon for a fast getaway, he remarked 'I sure could use a plane that takes off that fast.' He seemed amused by the film. He doesn't really laugh out loud, but he makes these more dignified chuckles of satisfaction. Because of the way he kept commenting to me, I felt so relaxed with him, and I let my guard down and started making comments back — which I was told would be against protocol. At one point, I said to him, 'Gee, I am really sorry your boys could not come.'"

Yet as exciting as that event was, it's the Special Edition's world premiere in Los Angeles that Hamill remembers best, probably because he got to bring his entire family. His children's response to the premiere not only pleased, but also



Left: Will Ferrell, Mark Hamill, and Chris Kattan spoof home shopping on *Saturday Night Live*.

Right top: Hamill as Col. Christopher Blair in the popular *Wing Commander* CD-ROM series.

Right bottom: A cover from Hamill's *Black Pearl* comic series from Dark Horse Comics.

“Right now I am living moment-to-moment and waiting to see what comes up next.”



Top: Hamill and wife Marilou at the Star Wars Special Edition Royal Premiere in London. Bottom: At home in Malibu, CA with Marilou and daughter Chelsea.

surprised him. “My children were excited about going to the premiere with me, which I found great,” Hamill enthused. “What really surprised me was Nathan, my oldest son. He’s at that ‘cool’ age where he has a girlfriend and he’s in a band. But just before the premiere, he stunned me when he asked if he could go into the attic and get my Luke Skywalker boots to wear to the premiere. Griffin, my second, was at first nonchalant, originally saying that he was not going to the premiere because it was at 10:30 AM on a Saturday morning and he planned to sleep in.” Eventually, all attended the event quite happily. “My youngest, Chelsea, she really enjoyed the film,” he added proudly.

Nathan was just three years old at the end of the filming of *Return of the Jedi*. “I wonder, looking back on the photographs, what he remembers,” Nathan’s dad said. “Even though he was very young, he did go through the on-set experience and he has been a fan of the movies as he was growing up. I guess I was taken aback when he became so excited again with the re-release of the movies. I think he might wish he had been a little bit older so that he could remember more about that time.”

But in keeping with his resolve to look forward, Mark Hamill does not often peer back. “I am not the kind of person who goes through scrapbooks or yearbooks,” he said, “and I think my kids know that it is not one of my favorite things to do. Although last year, Chelsea came running into my room and said, ‘Dad, quick! You’re on TV when you were a little boy!’ She was watching reruns of *The Partridge Family*, and I was appearing as one of the girls’ date. I was about 18 at the time.”

But while vintage versions of the actor are delighting audiences the world over, Hamill is keeping his focus on the printed page. “I have a lot of writing projects that I have started,” he revealed. “Now that the re-write of *Black Pearl* is finished and at the point where it’s in other peoples’ hands, I’m turning toward other projects. I have developed an animated television series, and I even have a game that I have written up. Right now, I am living moment-to-moment and



waiting to see what comes up next.”

Star Wars fans seem to be doing the same thing — much to Hamill’s chagrin. The actor says he is commonly asked the same question by people he meets: “When is the next one?” Said Hamill, “That is thanks to George numbering the first film Episode Four. If the movies would have kept coming out every three years, as originally planned, we would be finishing up the series by now, as there were originally nine stories in all. I remember telling people back in 1977 that we are in the middle trilogy of three trilogies, and that the characters in the ‘book-end’ trilogies would not be the same as in films four, five and six.

“But no matter how many times you say that,” he continued, “people still say to you ‘Why isn’t the Princess going to be in the next one? Why isn’t Luke?’ No matter how many times I have said it, you are always going to meet people who don’t know and want it to be the continuing adventures of Luke, Han, Princess Leia, Lando, Chewbacca, R2-D2 and C-3PO.”

That’s no surprise, since even 20 years later, audiences are still captivated by the *Star Wars* saga and by Hamill’s wide-eyed performance. Mark Hamill knows that no matter how accomplished he is as an actor, writer, director, producer, or voice-over artist, there will always be legions of fans who know him and love him as Luke Skywalker.

And — so long as those take the time to check out what he’s doing now — that’s perfectly fine with him. Clearly, in all of Hamill’s endeavors, the Force has been with him. Always. 🌟



NATHAN HAMILL: MY FATHER THE JEDI

HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A FAN OF THE STAR WARS TRILOGY and I had great fun growing up around such a fantastic fantasy world. I was glad to hear about the Special Edition of the trilogy because I hadn't seen the first two films on the big screen since the mid-1980's when my family was living in New York. Like most people my age, I grew up with the *Star Wars* trilogy and they are some of my favorite films. Yes, my Dad portrayed one of the characters in the film, but that does not diminish my enjoyment of the stories.

Looking back, it is hard to write about events that occurred when I was 2-1/2 years old, but with the 20th anniversary release, I have been thinking more and more about that time in my life. My memories come more from pictures and stories that people have told me over the years, than my memory.

One of my favorite stories is when I was first born in London, England, my Dad was filming *The Empire Strikes Back* and there I was in the hotel, crawling around in my diapers. I have been told that Harrison Ford gave me a teddy bear that was dressed in BVDs for my crib.

I have gone to the premiers for each of the Special Edition films with my mom, dad, sister Chelsea and brother Griffin. I have also gone back again and again to see them with friends. Griffin enjoys them a lot but Chelsea, at the age she is now, she takes bold pride in the fact that 'Luke Skywalker' is her dad. To her, and her friends, it seems like the coolest thing on the playground.

People can relate to the movies because they are very honest and pure of heart, especially *Return of the Jedi* which seemed to be aimed toward a younger audience. It is a fairy tale and it is most playful and joyous.

When I was younger, I liked *Return of the Jedi* the most but as I got older I began to appreciate *Empire* more. *The Empire Strikes Back* is now my favorite of the three films. As a kid, I don't think I was able to understand the symbolism of *Empire*, in particular the scene when Luke, while in a type of dream setting, lops off Darth Vader's head only to see his own face.

It is the set up to the scene I like. When Luke notices that something is wrong about where they are and asks Yoda what is in the cave and Yoda responds "Only what you take with you." As Luke picks up his weapons belt Yoda says "Your weapons you will not need them," and within the cave Luke confronts the evil within him, setting the story up for his future confrontation with the Emperor.

Luke was a naive farm boy and he was kind of young and he got excited over life. Dad's voice has not changed that much over the years, and the one line that people always laugh at is when he says to his uncle, in kind of a whinny, teen-ager voice "But I was going to Tosche station to pick up some power convertors." It is funny because it is the typical immature, high school kid kind of statement. It seems like it was from *Leave it to Beaver* set in space.

When I go to the theater and see the movies, I sometimes expect him to talk to me from the screen. I remember calling him after going to see one of the movies when I hadn't gotten my homework done. Well, while Luke was up there flying his X-wing across the galaxy, I could almost hear him turn to me and say "Nathan you'd better finish your English." Then I heard that same voice on the phone when I called home after the movie. That was kind of strange.

Because dad worked on movies and television when I was a little kid, I have always known that his work is his work and that it is make believe. As a young child, I had to be quiet on the set and dad would explain to me how important it was, and I never made a peep, but because I was there I knew it was a movie and that my dad was playing a role. I remember one of my cousins being really scared when Luke's hand was cut off. My cousins are older than me, I had to be about 8 at the time, and they really thought Darth Vader had cut Uncle Mark's hand off.

Right now, I am enjoying seeing the excite-

Above: Two year old Nathan Hamill kicks it with *Star Wars* stars Billy Dee Williams, Carrie Fisher, and Dave Prowse on the set of *Jedi* in 1982.





“At 17, I am kind of anxious to get off ‘this farm’ to pursue my own adventures and see what I can do.”

Above: Nathan Hamill meets Yoda, sits in for the Emperor, hangs around the forest of Endor with R2-D2 and rides a speeder bike with dad, on the set of *Jedi*.

ment being generated around the prequels and future *Star Wars* stories. One of the great things about the new movies being released, is that it will be a chance to go back to that world, not knowing what to expect and being surprised by what George Lucas dreams up this time. I am anticipating the new movies to be as exciting as the first three and hope that those fans can enjoy them, while keeping their memories of *A New Hope*, *Empire*, and *Return* alive.

When watching *A New Hope*, I see some of the similarities between Luke and my dad. He told me about being on the set of *A New Hope* and how excited he was about the ‘flying cars’ and other cool things. And there was Harrison going “Yeah, yeah, I’ve seen it kid.” Dad has told me one thing that was great about the movies and the characters is that Luke and Han were a lot like my dad and Harrison and that they had as much fun on the set as they did in the movie.

Growing up with my dad has been a lot of fun due to his interest in comic books, toys, cartoons and other parts of fine culture. I loved being in such a young-hearted environment, which is probably why my room is decorated with toys, stuffed animals, comic books and my cherished Spümcø “Three Stooges” dolls even though I am almost 18 years old.

Part of growing up as the son of the actor who played Luke Skywalker was the boxes of toys that Kenner Toys would send to us. I remember as a kid when the Kenner boxes arrived, my father, who is a collector, was tempted to save everything in the attic. He has since told me he couldn’t tell me, a little kid, that I couldn’t play with the toys from my favorite movies. I guess I figured out what the word “Kenner” (imprinted on the side of the box) meant at a very young age.

From those early boxes that Kenner sent I still have all those toys on display, including a few Luke heads left, only the bodies are now missing. I dropped my Darth Vader action figure down an elevator shaft in New York and my mom had to go out and get me a new one because I refused to live without it.

The questions I get asked most often is “Isn’t it weird having an action figure of your dad?” I suppose it seems a little strange to see his likeness on everything from Luke Skywalker Soap to my Taco Bell puzzle cube. Accepting my father’s job as an actor when I was much younger, I have always been able to differentiate between him and the char-

acters he has portrayed.

I cannot imagine that anyone knew in 1977 that *A New Hope* would become what it did. My mom told me that she started dating dad after it was filmed but before the screening. She knew that he had done this sci-fi movie, but neither of them were anticipating it to be as big as it was.

I heard my dad say during an interview recently that he always knew *Star Wars* was going to be a big thing. But I think he has been surprised by the amount of up-roar that the Special Edition has triggered as well as the continuing fan base that has lasted the last 20 years.

When we went on the Howard Stern show, Howard was asking “Isn’t it cool that your dad is Luke Skywalker?” But to me it doesn’t matter what he has done for a living. He is my father, and either as Luke Skywalker or a postman, like Howard Stern’s Intern, Steve Guillo’s dad, he would still be my father. And I would be happy to be his kid. Actually he might be a little less stressed out if he had another profession.

Regardless, I am proud of all of his work and what he has accomplished — but I would be proud of him if he wasn’t an actor, too.

People can relate to Luke’s position as a young kid in the first movie because of the Wizard-of-Oz-in-boring-Kansas-feel that it has. When Luke is looking at the twin suns and wondering what is out there, what adventures are in store, it feels so real and normal. It is something I can relate to now. In the end, it is also encouraging to see this 19 year-old kid take the shot that blows out the battle station — it is optimistic and inspiring to young people.

To me, that is a big reason that the movies and the character of Luke Skywalker are so popular today. People of all ages can relate to his desire to confront his own future, and in the end he is so good at it that he wins, which we all want to do.

At 17, I am kind of anxious to get off ‘this farm’ to pursue my own adventures and see what I can do. If my dad looks back at how his character Luke felt, and which he portrayed so convincingly, I am sure he knows how I feel. 🙌



20th ANNIVERSARY





John Fass Morton Dack Attack!

The Snowspeeder Gunner Talks About Hazardous Snow, National Defense—And Being Boba Fett

JOHNN FASS MORTON WANTS THE WORLD TO KNOW that — unlike his character in *The Empire Strikes Back*, who died on the snowy surface of Hoth — he is very much alive.

"A friend of my son's was at school," Morton told the *Insider*, "and some kid who subscribes to your magazine said to him, 'They're looking for guys from *Star Wars*, and they're trying to find Dak, but they think he's dead or something.' And my son's friend said, 'I know where Dak is — he's in Annapolis!'"

That schoolyard sleuth had apparently read the *Insider's* "Rebel Pilot Reunion" in issue 32, which featured new interviews with almost every living actor who donned the sacred orange uniform and piloted an X-wing, Y-wing, or snowspeeder in an attack on the Empire in the *Star Wars* trilogy.

Almost. Despite considerable effort, the *Insider* couldn't track down four pilots — Drew Hemley (*Star Wars'* Red Leader), Graham Ashley (Gold Five), Richard Oldfield (not listed in the article) and John Morton, Luke's gunner in the daring assault on the Imperial AT-ATs in *The Empire Strikes Back*. Morton's role is brief (Dak is shot, and then crushed, by an AT-AT), but he speaks for all of us when he tells Luke just before the mission, "Right now, I feel I can take on the whole Empire myself!"

The *Insider* put out a call to our readers, asking for information on the trio of missing thespians, adding cryptically, "We believe that one or more of these actors may be deceased." Little did we know that far from being deceased, Morton was alive and kicking, working in the defense industry as a freelance defense journalist, serving on panels at both the Center for Strategic & International Studies and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts — and basking in the success of *The Empire Strikes Back* Special Edition.

In fact, Morton was in such demand by the local Washington, D.C., media during the Special Edition's opening, that many area fans answered the *Insider's* call for information and let us know what we were missing. A week after the schoolyard

sighting, the New York-born actor was confronted by a good friend who told him, "There's a buzz going around church that you were in *Star Wars*."

"I said, 'Yes, that's true,'" Morton recalls. "I've known this guy for years, but the topic never came up. He said, 'I don't believe it. My son subscribes to the fan magazine and if you were in the movie, you gotta be in there.' Later that day, I get a phone call from him, and he's ecstatic. He says, 'I can't believe this — there's your name and there's your picture. They think you're dead, and they're trying to find you.'"

All the attention has come out of the blue for Morton, who segued from acting to writing 13 years ago. "I was a full-time show business person, and I loved it," he says. "I had a great career going on one level for a long period of time, and I was quite happy to stay in it. But suddenly family pressures hit, and it was time to settle down. I had to change gears, and that's how I got into journalism."

As an actor, Morton racked up an impressive list of credits in a short period of time. In addition to *Empire*, he made his film debut in Sir Richard Attenborough's war epic *A Bridge Too Far*, in which he played alongside several other actors who would go on to roles in the *Star Wars* saga, including John Ratzenberger (Major Derlin, and later Cliff on TV's *Cheers*), Jack McKenzie (Rebel Deck Lieutenant), Tony Forrest (a *Star Wars* stormtrooper), Garrick Hagon (Biggs). He also appeared in *Superman II* — as an astronaut killed by the evil General Zod, Non & Ursa — and *Flash Gordon* (both of which also featured *Empire's* Lobot, John Hollis).

Other projects include the acclaimed British television series *Oppenheimer*, and Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining*, in which he played a Colorado state trooper who stopped Scatman Crothers from driving through a blizzard. But as with *Superman II* and *Flash Gordon*, Morton was not the only *Empire* veteran to appear in *The Shining*, which was shot just a few months

BY SCOTT
CHERNOFF
& JON
BRADLEY
SNYDER



ILLUSTRATION BY RUSSELL RYAN

after *Empire* on the same studio lot, Elstree, in London.

"The snow that was used in *Empire Strikes Back* reappeared in *The Shining*," Morton says. "The scene was set in Colorado, but it was shot in London using snow from *Star Wars*." The actor says the fake snow, which was actually something called dendritic salt (produced by the aptly-named Imperial Chemicals Industries), caused some problems during the production of *Empire*. "When the lights turned on, the stuff would vaporize a bit," Morton explains, "and all of us went around with serious headaches for a while."

Aside from the occasional headache, Morton said his experience on the *Empire* set was the best of his film career. "The atmosphere on *The Empire Strikes Back* was unusual for any of the films that I was in, and I think it's really a credit to George Lucas and [producer] Gary Kurtz," he says. "I did not experience or witness any grumbling whatsoever from any one — everybody was having such a wonderful time. It was like Christmas. Things like that happen only when there's something going on at the top that sets the tone. The little guys were not getting lost. The tea lady was not just the tea lady — she was a person with a first name who, probably if George was getting a cup of tea from her, would have been treated like Han Solo."

ORIGINALLY, MORTON WAS HIRED FOR just a few days' work, but that quickly stretched, quite happily for him, into four weeks. "George was having a rough time getting the blue matte behind us properly lit," he remembers. "There was a lot of very fastidious work going on in getting the hot spots and shadows out with the lighting. They were on a very tight schedule, and there was work going on simultaneously around us for several of the days."

"There were many days," Morton continued, "where we were just standing around, hoping to get a window where they could run us over after lunch and shoot a little piece that they were trying to get. So the actors had to be on call, and we were juggled around with other things that were delayed for other reasons."

But the Rebel hero made good use of his downtime — even enlisting for a couple days as an agent of the Empire when he donned the costume of Boba Fett when actor Jeremy Bulloch, who played the beloved bounty hunter, couldn't be there. "Steve Lanning, the second assistant direc-



"The atmosphere on *The Empire Strikes Back* was unusual for any of the films that I was in, and I think it's really a credit to George Lucas and [producer] Gary Kurtz..."

tor, and Jeremy, came to me, and Steve said, 'You guys are about the same size — would you be interested in covering for a couple days, so Jeremy can go off and do his film?'"

The scene with Morton inside the historic Boba suit is the one where Fett confronts Vader over Solo's impending carbon-freezing and says, "He's no good to me dead." Says Morton, "Then we all followed Darth Vader down the corridor, and then Lando and Boba Fett are looking at each other. So that was two days work. It was fun — I got to know Billy Dee Williams, and I really liked him a lot."

Of course, Morton got the chance to get to know a lot of people in those four weeks, including Carrie Fisher, whom he found "very shy," and Mark Hamill. "We were kind of joined at the hip in our plane," Morton said of the *Empire's* Luke Skywalker. "He was a really nice guy. We had lunch together almost every day. And on occasion David Prowse would join us, and [fellow

Rebel pilots] Chris Malcolm [Zev] and Eugene Lipinsky."

Hamill and Morton bonded when they discovered that they both were the sons of Navy men. Recalling the day Luke and Dak's snowspeeder was blown up on film, Morton said wistfully, "It was kind of sad to see the plane that we had been going in and out of for four weeks being destroyed."

Before the snowspeeder is stepped on by an AT-AT with Dak's probably-lifeless body still inside, Morton joins the elite ranks of actors who have had their vehicle blown up by the Empire. The explosion scene, he admits, "wasn't anything novel to me. I got blown up in *Superman II* and *Flash Gordon*, so I got pretty good at getting blown up. To tell you the truth, I remember *Superman II* a bit more, because they had this forklift that was banging on the lunar module and crushing it from the top, so I was more afraid that I'd be crushed than I was of the [explosive] squibs going off."

Morton also revealed the secret identity of a fellow Rebel who has somehow managed to escape notice these past 17 years. "Treat Williams was there," he says of the star of such films as *Prince of the City*, *Primal Fear*, and recently *The Devil's Own* with Harrison Ford. "I think he was a buddy of Harrison Ford's. I remember him saying, 'Gosh, this is so neat.'" The next thing Morton knew, Williams was suited up in the tan fatigues of a Rebel officer and milling around the set as an extra. "He probably did it for no pay, just because he thought it was so neat he wanted to be a part of it. That kind of characterizes the whole mood of the set while I was there."

Top Center: Dak, ready to take on the whole Empire. Below: Dak mans the blaster in a Rebel snowspeeder.



It was only fitting that Morton was there — and playing a military man, none the less — since, “I was in the Navy for a while,” he says, “and my father’s side of the family were all Navy people. When I went to college, I was split in two halves. I couldn’t decide what I wanted to study — theater arts or international affairs.” He chose international affairs, earning a Master’s Degree.

“After the Navy,” he continued, “I thought, ‘How am I going to bridge these two parts of my nature,’ and I thought documentary film would do that. So I went over to London in 1971, because that’s where some of the finer documentaries came from. I worked on one documentary, but I had difficulties getting into the right union. So I ended up working in theater — I was one of the lighting and sound guys on the original stage version of *The Rocky Horror Show*,” as well as productions for the Royal Shakespeare Company.

On the side, Morton played guitar (which he still plays in church) for a rock band in pubs, opening for the likes of singer/guitarist Joan Armatrading. That led him into stage musicals, and a starring role in the hit *The Lady or the Tiger*, and in turn to dramatic acting in *A Bridge Too Far* and *Empire*.

After *Empire*, Morton, then 32, “came to the conclusion that since I hadn’t trained properly as an actor, I probably wasn’t going to make it. I was more interested in writing anyway, so I wrote a couple of film scripts, and the second one I wrote was actually picked up.” Unfortunately, despite the backing of Orion Pictures, a committed cast that included Dennis Christopher (*Breaking Away*) and a young director named Stephen Frears (who would later direct *The Grifters* and *Dangerous Liaisons*), Morton’s script, *The Operator*, was never produced.

“So I packed my bag and went to New York and started writing plays,” Morton says, including *Uninvited Family*, which ran for six weeks in 1982. But when two more years passed and he was still doing public relations work to pay the rent, “I thought to myself, ‘This is not working. If I’m going to be doing PR, I’d rather do it for policy issues than toothpaste.’ I’ll go back down where I come from and do it in Washington, and then maybe I can pick up some ideas.” I became a freelance defense journalist, and that’s what I’ve been doing ever since.”

Over the last 13 years, Morton has become quite an expert on international issues, having served as congressional editor for *Armed Forces Journal International* and contributing editor for McGraw-Hill’s *Federal Technology Report*, as well writ-



“Essentially, everything you have in the X-wing fighter is supposed to, in the next 20 years, go into the helmet-mounted display for the infantrymen...”

ing for *National Defense*, *Defense News*, *Defense & Diplomacy*, *Defense Daily*, *Asian Defense Journal*, *Seapower*, and the U.S. Naval Institute’s *Proceedings*. He was also a member of a 1991 panel for the Center for Strategic & International Studies that wrote a report called *The Gulf War: Military Lessons Learned*, and has recently done studies on anti-submarine warfare.

Morton says the real world of national security is starting to catch up to *Star Wars*. “Essentially, everything you have in the X-wing fighter is supposed to, in the next 20 years, go into the helmet-mounted display for the infantrymen,” he reports. “They’ll be able to provide targeting information automatically through digital link, and at the same time receive targeting information so they can shoot around the corner.”

Though he currently serves as vice president of defense conferences at King Communications Group in Washington, D.C., Morton still makes time for his first love, theater. He has served on reading

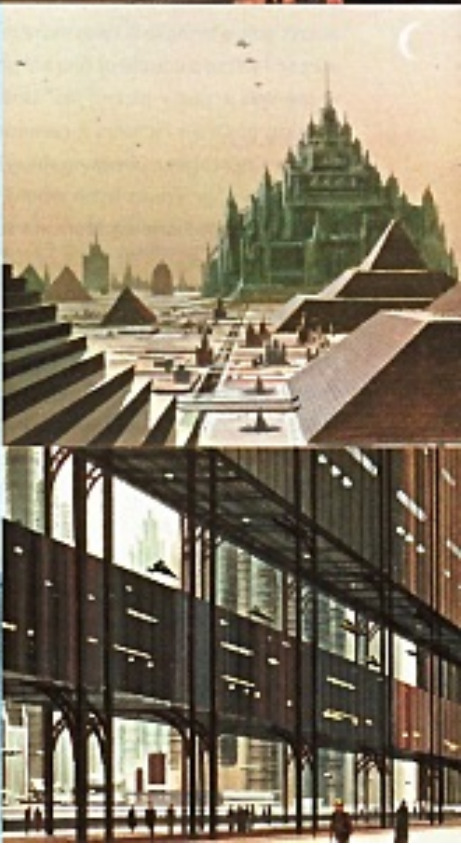
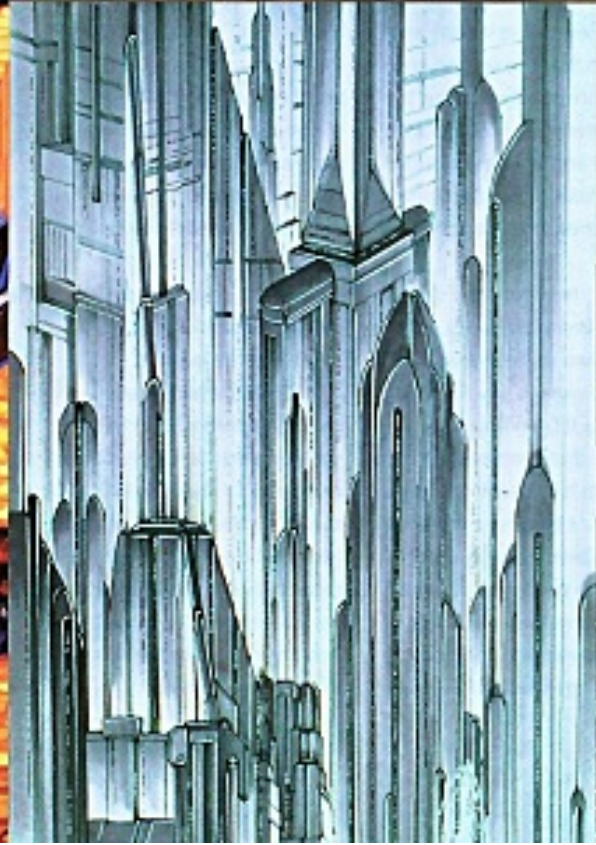
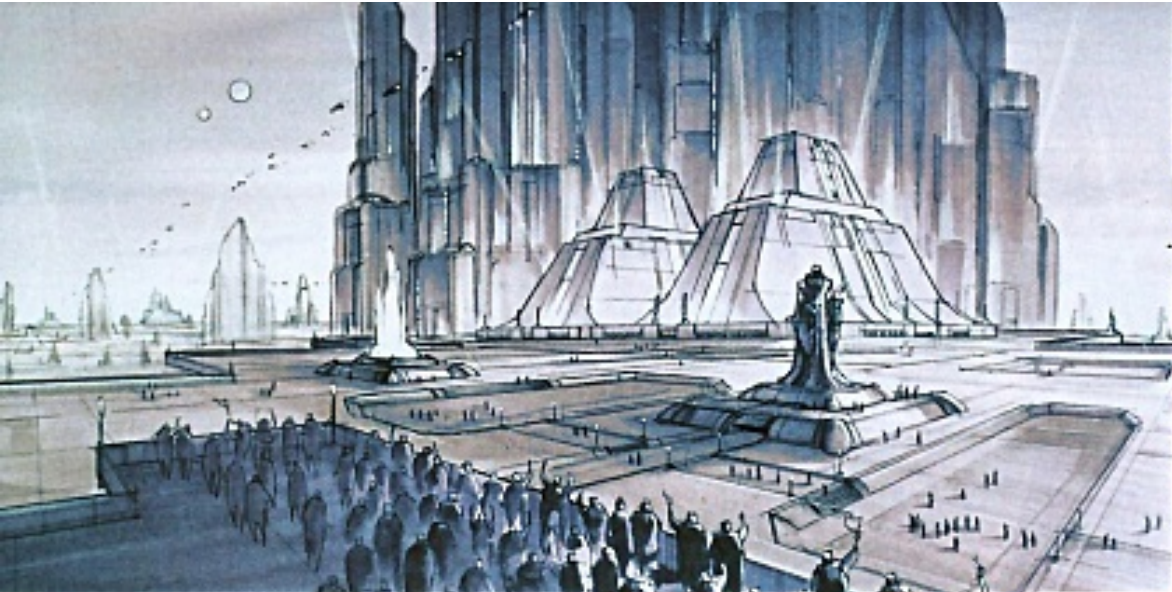
committees for the Kennedy Center’s Fund for New American Plays, and is a member of two D.C. playwrights groups.

And now that the Special Edition has stormed the nation, he’s finding himself pulled back, as if by tractor beam, to the *Empire*. He checked out the *Empire* Special Edition recently with his children. “The kids kept saying, ‘Which one is you, Dad?’” he jokes, then admits, “I must tell you, at first, when somebody asked me if I was going to see *Empire*, I said, ‘I’ve seen it so many times, I don’t think so. I’m too old for this.’ But then they said, ‘Come on, you’ve got to take your kids and let them see it.’

“That’s when I realized the opening of *Empire* was February 21, the eve of my daughter Emily’s birthday,” he continues. “I said to myself, ‘This is going to be good. They may never get a chance to see dad on the silver screen again.’ So I took them. And life has not been the same in this household since.”

Top Center: Jon Morton as he appears today. Bottom: Jon Morton with his daughters.







ENVISION

a bright city as massive and

populated as New York... times 10. Your imagination has taken you on a journey to Coruscant... the

center of the known *Star Wars* universe and the center of attention in *Return of the Jedi* Special

Edition's celebration scene."

Coruscant

THE MANHATTAN OF
THE STAR WARS UNIVERSE

BY ATHENA PORTILLO

THE JEWEL OF THE CORE WORLDS HAS KILOMETER-HIGH structures, climate-controlled mirrors reflecting the sun, construction droids that never tire, kite-like hawk bats and giant mutated rats, aurora glow shows, a shadowy underworld— and tour droids for hire.

Visual Effects Supervisor John Knoll, was lucky enough to be a part of George Lucas' revamped vision, incorporating Coruscant as one of the planets celebrating the fall of the second Death Star.

"Coruscant was included in the *Jedi* Special Edition as sort of a teaser to what's to come in the prequels," states Knoll. "George wanted to show just a little sneak peek and it made sense that after the destruction of the second Death Star, the death of the Emperor and the toppling of the Empire, that the oppressed masses would then celebrate."

However, there is a reason behind this unexpected treat George Lucas so kindly gave *Star Wars* fans this year.



GEORGE HULL



Above: George Hull, (top) Art Director, with model buildings from Coruscant. Jon Knoll (below) Visual Effects Supervisor in discussion with Mike Lynch, Model Shop Supervisor.

This page: One of Production Assistant Robert Barnes' sketches that helped flesh out the concept for the Imperial home world.

Next page: (top) Still Photographer Sean Casey and George Hull confer. (center) Coruscant as depicted in the Return of the Jedi Special Edition. (bottom) A concept painting by veteran Star Wars artist Ralph McQuarrie.

Previous page: (clockwise from top left) Production sketch by George Hull; Coruscant as depicted in the Shadows of the Empire trading card series by the Brothers Hildebrandt; Concept painting the Imperial Entertainment Complex by Ralph McQuarrie along with two other McQuarrie landscapes; a Robert Barnes production sketch of the skyscrapers and another Hildebrandt painting (with Kizari) of the cityscape

"Coruscant" was included in the *Jedi* Special Edition as sort of a teaser to what's to come in the prequels."

A reason that will not be unveiled to us until 1999.

But let's investigate how the *Jedi* Special Edition scene was created...

The one shot of Coruscant in *Jedi* was a special case for Knoll. It wasn't really related to anything else in the movie. It was its own development piece that he tackled by way of having skyscraper models made at ILM, matte paintings, background skies and landscapes come to life by a crew of talented individuals.

The designs were inspired by Ralph McQuarrie's book paintings as shown in author Kevin J. Anderson's *The Illustrated Star Wars Universe* book. But it was Director of Concept Design Doug Chiang, who designed more of the specific architecture in Coruscant and Art Director George Hull who sketched more detailed drawings of what would actually belong in the 20,000+ foot high structures and window layouts.

"Sketching Coruscant was a different take in constructing a megametropolis," says Chiang. "I had to make it believable and establish a scale of how big and powerful the technological strength of its inhabitants was in this city/planet."

STYLISTICALLY, CHIANG recounts that George wanted something that was very sleek, because he wanted Coruscant to be a city of mixtures - a combination of really sleek architecture with some older-style architecture. This part of town was the newer, sort of "Art Deco or Art Modern-type" area.

Some of Ralph McQuarrie's original concept designs can be perceived in the pyramid-like shaped, more concrete buildings which have a Mayan flair.

"I visioned and created this planet to be cornered with cities," recalls McQuarrie. "The lowest layers

of each building were vastly old with new layers being added to them over and over again until they reached high, above the atmosphere. But the construction in Coruscant was computer controlled. Only the concepts, the visualization and brainwork were man made."

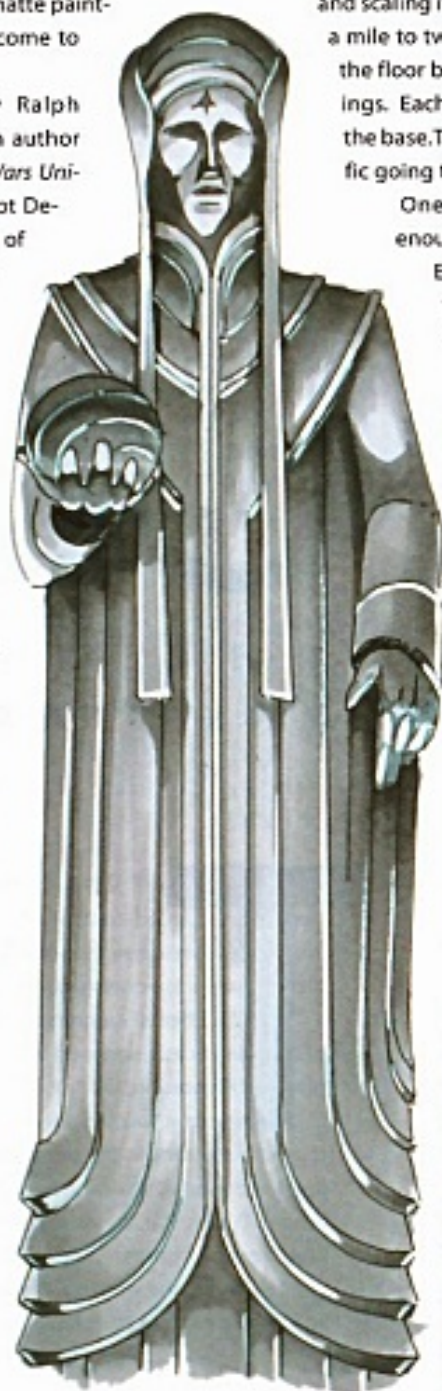
According to Chiang, "It was like taking Manhattan and scaling it way, way up. All of these buildings are a mile to two-mile high skyscrapers. We never see the floor because this is a city of such large buildings. Each one of them is several blocks wide at the base. This was the overall view, with flying traffic going throughout the city - a very 3D world."

One building in this plush arena is big enough to contain a city's whole population. Everything is just scaled up so high. Even the rooftops have landing pads where shipments of material and duly acquired items are received. Not to mention open-air stadiums for every citizen to hear important speeches and information exchange.

"My crew and I worked on the Coruscant shot for about 2 1/2 months," says Knoll. "Most of what you see is a combination of models, matte paintings and computer graphics. The models were in there mainly as photographic reference and for generations of texture."

Imagine that a camera is doing a big move across the set, but you could, since the perspective changes, limit the shot to the buildings that are off in the distance. You can create an equivalent of a cut out photograph which Knoll did via computer graphics.

"You take a photograph of one of our model buildings and do a little paint work on top of that. Then you stick that effectively on a card out in space with the perspective lined up right so you can pan across it and have the appropriate depth in scene, but it is not completely



“Most of what you see is a combination of models, matte paintings and computer graphics.”





Above Left: (clockwise from one o'clock) Mike Lynch, Model Shop Project Supervisor; Giovanni Donovan, Model Maker; John Knoll, Visual Effects Supervisor; Kim Smith, Model Maker; Megan Carlson, Production Assistant; Chris Reed, Model Maker; Robert Edwards, Model Maker. (right) Art Director George Hall, John Knoll and Mike Lynch go over the finer points of building Coruscant.

Right: Production sketch by Doug Chiang.



three dimensional."

Knoll and his crew built 3D computer graphic models of a lot of Coruscant structures that are closer to the camera, so that with the camera moving, you would actually see in a 3D perspective.

"Cityscapes are tricky," Knoll says with a slight smile. "Just doing an unbelievably, completely phony cityscape is a real challenge."

Chiang says that while the depicted art scenes shown in *Jedi* were designed as part of the Episode I development, it was decided to use the imagery as a small preview in *Jedi* as a "testbed" for how these shots would play out, and how they would look on the big screen.

"As a result, we used the end of the last movie as sort of a preview for the first movie."

There was always a question that came up during the production of Coruscant concerning "Gang Wars" or shall we say "Good Vs. Evil Wars."

Knoll wondered why the bad guys, the Emperor's cronies, were so happy that the Empire had fallen? Aren't they all out of work and in danger of war crime tribunals?

"Well, George's explanation was 'No, No. None of these people liked being evil. They were forced into it and they are as happy as anybody else with the yoke of oppression having been lifted.'"

It seems as if the seat of the Old Republic was always a happy, friendly place to start with. But sometime within the three prequels, that Empire rises and becomes "the domain

of evil."

Creating Coruscant the way it was depicted in *Jedi* was a really interesting challenge to Knoll and his crew. They couldn't meticulously duplicate a style of work done previously because there wasn't any reference to work from.

Coruscant was new, fresh and GRAND! From the Emerald City look to the Gothic dressed inhabitants.

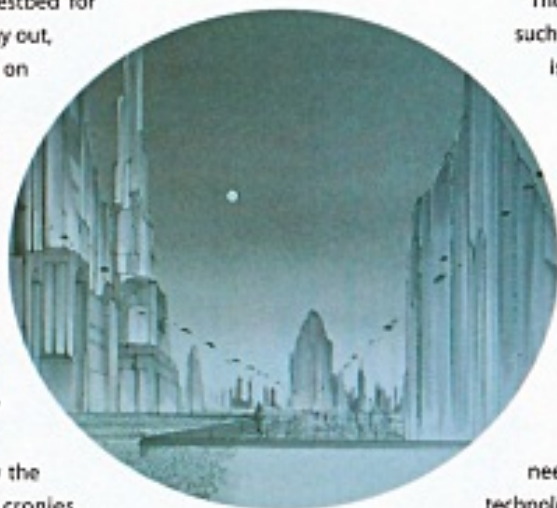
According to McQuarrie, "Clothing in Coruscant was smooth. One piece costumes such as gray coats, helmets and goggles, were worn to protect locals and tourists from surrounding pollution."

Though it's normal to have pollution in such a vast and industrial planet, Coruscant is known to be very clean, bright, and environmentally conscious.

In preparing for his role on the set of the next *Star Wars* saga, Knoll has been studying the storyboards, going over the script, and trying to figure out techniques for about 4 to 5 months now.

"I'm getting a much better grasp of the show as a whole and I think we've got workable plans. We need to invent new techniques and new technology to make some things happen. Not that it's impossible or inconceivably hard. It's just that some of it is tricky. We've just never been called upon before to do some of what we plan on doing for the prequels."

As a dream project for Knoll and for many others fortunate enough to have the talent and ambition to work on the *Star Wars* prequels, Knoll perhaps speaks for many when the question "Where do you want to take your career?" is answered with "Well, someday I want to be part of one of the new *Star Wars* pictures." 🍌





A Real-Life *Star Wars* Hero

Shawn Valdez

CHUFFLING THROUGH A DECK OF HOTH expansion cards for Decipher Inc.'s *Star Wars* Customizable Card Game, you come across a photo of a handsome young Rebel officer. "Shawn Valdez," the card says. "Charismatic leader of Echo Base troopers.... Poetic musician."

The name and description are out of the ordinary, intriguing. They should be. For while the real Shawn Valdez just wanted to be treated like a "normal, everyday" 13-year-old, his mother and friends say, he was a courageous and poetic youngster who for nearly eight years battled the leukemia that eventually felled him late last summer. The Decipher card's namesake was as much a hero as the fictional Shawn, and how the two identities merged is a tale worthy of the *Star Wars* universe.

"Shawn was a very special kid, and he enjoyed life to the fullest," says his mother, Maria Valdez, from the family's home in Jacksonville, Florida. "He never left anything unfinished." Shawn was diagnosed with an uncommon form of leukemia at the age of 5-1/2, underwent a year of chemotherapy and other treatment, relapsed, had a bone marrow transplant from his sister Ivonne, and then re-

lapsed again five months later. So it went for the rest of his short life, 11 relapses in all.

But through it all, Shawn's will to live remained strong. "The family was realistic, but none of us ever accepted that he was going to die," Mrs. Valdez says. "And Shawn insisted on being treated as a normal kid. He complained if his friends let him win at games; he was a fighter and if he won, he wanted it to be on his own terms."

Despite his constant treatments, which often sapped his strength, Shawn was both a happy child and very bright. Even though he often missed classes, he managed to keep up with his own age group in school. And he loved games, at one

point acting as an adviser to a San Francisco Bay-area company that was developing an interactive video game for children who had leukemia.

"Shawn was very into Nintendo when he was young," Mrs. Valdez says. "And he often surprised us with his insight and sensitivity." A lot of that came through in a book to which he contributed a chapter. "I Will Sing Life" was compiled by children, like Shawn, who attended a "Hole in the Wall Gang" camp, partly funded by the actor Paul Newman, for children with life-threatening illnesses. "The poetry portrayed Shawn's life very realistically—how he perceived his family, his friends, himself," his mother adds.

When Nintendo stopped being as much of a challenge two years ago, a wheelchair-bound older neighbor introduced



BY STEVE
SANSWEET

"The movies, and then the card game, transported him to another place and helped to relax him."

Shawn to the challenges of card games. "He started with another game, then switched to *Star Wars*," Mrs. Valdez says. "He went crazy! We often drove all over town to collect the cards or to take him to tournaments."

Shawn loved the *Star Wars* trilogy, watching the movies so often that he memorized all the dialog. "He loved the fantasy, the make-believe," his mother says. "He had a lot of mind control, and this helped him disassociate himself from the reality of the pain. The movies, and then the card game, transported him to another place and helped to relax him."

It was through the *Star Wars* Customizable Card Game that Gregg Keefer met Shawn. Gregg, a 33-year-old sculptor's assistant, works part-time at Jacksonville's Books and Comics Unlimited, and runs *Star Wars* card game tournaments for Decipher. Last August 30, a Saturday, Shawn showed up for a tournament at the store with "big black rings under his eyes," Gregg says. "He told me he had stayed up all night working on his decks for the tournament."

It was the store's first tournament that would be ranked nationally, and Shawn told Gregg that he really wanted to get into the rankings and see his name on the Decipher web site. "He was very focused on finishing, but he was so exhausted that he only made it through two of the four games before his brother had to come to pick him up." When he left, Gregg gave him a starter deck and booster pack and told Shawn that he was sorry he hadn't done better. "It's okay," Shawn said. "I really just wanted to play."

That night Shawn fell into a fitful sleep. "He was talking softly and it became clear that he was—in his sleep—training someone to play the *Star Wars* card game," Mrs. Valdez says. The next afternoon, while getting a blood transfusion in the hospital, Shawn finally became one with the Force.

"One of the things he loved about the card tournaments was that no one there knew how sick he really was, and they treated him like any normal kid," says Mimi Pearce, a family friend. It

was Mimi, who went to the comic shop to see if there were any photos of Shawn at the tournament, who broke the news to Gregg. He was devastated, then swung into action. He got the shop to order a small *Star Wars* memorial trophy bearing a plaque with Shawn's name and pictures of Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Then he wrote a heartfelt follow-up to the tournament report he had posted on the web to the *Star Wars* CCG Discussion Digest. "I think he knew how little time he had and chose to spend it there (with us)," Gregg wrote. "I hope we were able to make those hours better for him." Mentioning Shawn's parting words to him, Gregg added, "I'm humbled by the bravery and the spirit carried in those few words."

Gregg's posting attracted lots of attention. At Decipher, executives such as Matt Mariani, marketing director, were touched and discussed how they could honor Shawn's memory. First, they made an exception and added Shawn's name to the national ranking list, where it remains today. "We talked about naming a national tournament or a prize after him," says Mariani, "but then Warren Holland (Decipher's chairman) noted that we were developing our first *Empire Strikes Back* expansion set, and suggested we explore naming a character for Shawn."

With Lucasfilm's permission, Decipher has been developing names for people, equipment and vehicles seen briefly in the trilogy, but never before named. After hearing the story about Shawn, Lucasfilm gave the go-ahead, making the name Shawn Valdez a permanent part of the *Star Wars* universe. Gregg has gotten together with other *Star Wars* tournament directors, and around the anniversary of Shawn's last match, entry fees to several local competitions will be donated in Shawn's name, and at the family's request, to the Child Cancer Fund, 1015 Atlantic Boulevard, Atlantic Beach FL 32233.

"The wonderful gesture by Decipher took me by complete surprise," Maria Valdez says. "I can just feel Shawn smiling and saying, 'Mom, that's really cool!'" 🙏

rebel rumblings

(continued from page 8)

of Coruscant was in the Timothy Zahn novels. I was wondering whether Coruscant was a creation of Timothy Zahn's or George Lucas.

Anyway that's all. Keep up the good work and may the Force be with you.

Nick McLean

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

Although many fans really love the character of Biggs it's obvious the restoring of all his original scenes would have bogged the film down—next issue the Insider will take an in-depth look at the Biggs and Luke scene from Anchorhead and then you can decide for yourself. Currently there are no plans to release the prequels novelization well in advance of the film's opening in 1999. The name "Coruscant" was first mentioned in the Timothy Zahn novels but the Imperial Capital, which is what Coruscant is, was definitely the creation of George Lucas and is mentioned in the novelizations of the original films.

Thank You George

Dear Jedi,

As you probably already know, Belgian theatres always run a bit late. Therefore I only saw *Star Wars* Special Edition on the 20th March. I was completely blown away. I saw *Empire* on the 11th of April. By the time this letter goes to print I will have seen *Jedi* as well.

In Munchen (Germany), the second Jedi Convention took place, organized by the European *Star Wars* Fan Club. I was very fortunate to meet these people: Steve Sansweet, Anthony Daniels, Lorne Peterson, Howie Weed and Timothy Zahn. Unfortunately Jeremy Bulloch couldn't make it. Maybe in 1999.

Over 1000 people attended this Con at the Sheraton Hotel and made it an unforgettable experience. I just wanted to thank George Lucas for this fantastic universe he created, binding all these people together and making them feel like a big family.

May the Force be with you!

Mark Dermul

Belgium

Mark thanks for your report on the German Star Wars convention. It's flattering that you address your letter "Dear Jedi", but please realize that we are just simple folk trying to create a magazine here, and not mighty warriors—although I have been known to levitate my computer in frustration during deadlines. 🙏

Scouting the galaxy

BY STEVE SANSWEET



Greedo vinyl doll.

Greedo Envy!

Musings on a Changing Hobby, Ewok Doggerel, Naming Tiree and Star Wars Manga from expert collector Steve Sansweet.

HERE WE ARE IN THE AFTERGLOW of the *Star Wars* Trilogy Special Edition, and what a time we had! For those of us old enough to have attended all three films the first time they appeared in theaters, it was (pardon me, Yogi Berra) *deja vu* all over again. And, in many respects, it was even better. Besides the glory of the restored films with their extra footage and incredible sound, it was a chance to have a trilogy communal experience again—and to share the films with a whole new generation of fans.

I've been asked dozens of times in the past few months what effect I think the Special Edition and then the upcoming prequels will have on the hobby of collecting *Star Wars* memorabilia. Will the price of this rise, the price of that fall? Is the hoarding of new action figures setting us up for a big price collapse followed by a massive dumping of new and old product?

Well, I can't see the future very well, but one thing is clear. *Star Wars* always has been, and remains, a phenomenon unlike any other. You can make comparisons to other films or television series, or to other areas of licensed merchandise, but there are few works of popular entertainment in the last half of the twentieth century that have come close to having the all-encompassing impact on popular culture of the *Star Wars* trilogy.

So while some prices will rise and others may fall, that has never been what this hobby is all about. It is about having something around you all the time that sparks memories and the

good feelings that you attach to the experience of having seen the films on the big screen. Seeing *Star Wars* for the first time is one of those personal milestones for countless people who retain vivid memories of every detail, stored away in that part of the psyche reserved for cataclysmic events such as the death of presidents.

Now, on to the mail. It won't surprise you to hear, by the way, that the volume of letters keeps growing—a healthy sign for the hobby.

The Ewoks are my favorite aliens in the *Star Wars* universe. I have been looking for an Ewok doll for quite some time. Is there an

address I can send away for a catalog to order one? I wrote this poem about them.

...Something you don't know about the moon of Endor

Its inhabitants are small, but big in a large way...

Hearts as big as their furry little heads

You most likely won't have understood a word they have said

Their language is primitive
Which made the Empire pay them no mind...

Adam Johnson
Rockford, MI



Plush Ewoks

"How does Decipher Inc. know who Tiree is?"

Thanks for sharing your verse. Although some adult cynics found the Ewoks too cuddly and cute, in my trips around the country, I have found more and more Ewok fans, especially among those who say that *Return of the Jedi* is their favorite film of the trilogy. Kenner eventually will be releasing some Ewok action figures. Lay's made 3,100 life-size plush Ewoks as part of its Special Edition promotion, and they are wonderful. But they weren't made to sell to the public, aren't easy to find, and are already commanding \$250 and up. The Disney parks sometimes get shipments of specially-made plush Ewoks for their Star Tours stores. And the older plush ("stuffed") Ewoks from Kenner are still available from dealers and flea markets at reasonable prices. But I agree with you that we need some new, widely-available plush Ewoks. Maybe someone's listening.

I've been a Star Wars fan and collector for 19 years. While a lot of people like Boba Fett, I'm fonder of another bounty hunter: Greedo. Why aren't there more Greedo items like a 12-inch figure, a mask and mug? Also, I'll buy anything with Princess Leia in the "slave girl" outfit.

Gregg Davis
Arabi, LA

You rubbed the magic lamp the right way. Available now is the really well-designed Applause Greedo vinyl figure and the Kenner small



Greedo Mask

action figure. A 12-inch Greedo figure is in the works as is a Don Post Greedo mask and hands. I wouldn't be surprised to see a Greedo mug, cardboard stand-up and possibly some other items portraying your favorite Rodian. As for Leia in her abbreviated outfit, a nifty life-size cardboard stand-up is now available through the Jawa Trader catalog, to be followed later this year by a beautifully-sculpted Kenner action figure.

I bought five expansion sets of *Star Wars: A New Hope* customizable card game cards. How does Decipher Inc. know who Tiree is?

Joseph Hong
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI

Good question, with a perhaps surprising answer. The design and development folks at Decipher are rabid Star Wars fans who have gone out of their way to help expand the Star Wars universe without going much beyond the films themselves. One of the ways they do this is to isolate background characters in the film frames and—working in conjunction with Stacy Mollema and others in Lucasfilm Licensing—give them names and a bit of history. Sometimes the names have been mentioned in the films, novels or radio dramas, or in the great West End Games material [*Tiree (Gold 2)* is from the original Star Wars script—ed.]. Other times, Decipher comes up with a name that just sounds right. For a particularly interesting and touching example, see the story on page 67.

Please help! I am a student and enjoy collecting the new Kenner Star Wars figures, but I'm frustrated that I and others not in the U.S. weren't given an opportunity to obtain the Han Solo stormtrooper Froot Loops cereal premium. Since you said (issue #31) that the figure won't be reissued, that means either going without or paying a dealer £40 or more. Kenner, please do not ignore overseas fans who are passionate about the films and collecting, but don't have the same opportunities as Americans.

Paul Dolan
Cheshire, England



Classic Star Wars Lunchboxes

"I would really love to have a Star Wars lunch pail. Have any new ones been made?"

Japanese Star Wars toys.



I empathize fully, but the issue of exclusives cuts many ways even for collectors in the U.S. As an example: the three 1997 Hong Kong commemorative three-packs (two with action figures and one with 12-inch figures) that non-Hong Kong residents can get only through dealers. But there is a solution to your particular problem. While the Han stormtrooper won't be reissued in that exact format, there are indications of a Kenner three-pack that will include Luke and Han as stormtroopers and Chewbacca in restraints, a scene from *Star Wars*.

I am trying to collect all of the original *Star Wars* action figures, but can't find them anywhere. How do I get started? Also, my son and I love the Darth Vader and C-3PO and R2-D2 talking banks. Are there any plans for more in the series?

Kevin J. Mikolajczak
Killeen, TX

One of your best resources is a twice a month tabloid-sized magazine, *Toy Shop*, which is filled with ads for *Star Wars* and other toys. It's available at large newsstands or big chain bookstores with extensive magazine racks. Also try ads in *Tomart's Action Figure Digest* and *Lee's Action Figure News*. Comic book shops and flea markets are other good resources. I agree that the banks are great, but there currently aren't any plans to follow them up. However *Tiger Electronics* has a new line of *Star Wars* electronic toys that

should please you— especially the cool stormtrooper room-intrusion alarm.

I would really love to have a *Star Wars* lunch pail. Have any new ones been made? Do I just have to get lucky and find an original? Where would I look?

Sarah El-Asmer
Norwalk, CA

While there haven't been any lunch pails or boxes made since the mid-1980s, I expect that to change by the time of the prequels, if not before. As for where to look for one of the original metal or plastic boxes, see the answer above. The *Tomart* guide shows and lists 12 boxes sold in the U.S., and additional foreign boxes. F.A.O. Schwarz is considering reproducing a slightly smaller version of an original *Star Wars* lunch box as a candy container.

I bought the Hallmark Christmas ornament of the *Millennium Falcon*. How long has Hallmark been making *Star Wars* ornaments, what did I miss, and what can I look forward to?

Christian Morelli
Jersey City, NJ

Last year was the first for Hallmark, so all you may have missed was the miniature three-vehicle set (*X-wing*, *TIE* fighter and *Imperial walker*) sold also with the *Falcon*. This year's

ornaments include *Darth Vader* with sound and light, *Luke Skywalker* with his lightsaber drawn, *Yoda*, and a set of *C-3PO* and *R2-D2* miniatures. The first three will be available at selected Hallmark stores starting in July, and the miniatures beginning in October.

In the 1970s/1980s Takara produced some exclusive Japanese *Star Wars* merchandise. Are there similar plans to coincide with the *Special Edition*?

Todd McLaughlin
Tochigi, Japan

"Oh my, yes," as one character—who will be immortalized in a wind-up metal walking figure—would say (*C-3PO*, of course, from *Tin Toy Club*). There will also be a series of incredibly-sculpted metal rings of major characters from *J.A.P.* and even *Star Wars* manga, comics in that special Japanese style that has become so popular all over the world. And, of course, there are posters, programs and tickets for the *Special Edition*. That's just a start—so be on alert.

At a recent convention I came across two different three-packs of recent Kenner action figures in flat cardboard boxes, each priced at around \$30. What's the story behind these sets? Were they ever available in stores?

Ryan Pominville
Hudson, WI

You saw two of the three three-packs available at *Sam's Club* and one or two other discount chains last year. The figures are carded and exactly like the ones on pegs. The only difference is the die-cut cardboard sleeve/box that holds them. Each "Collector Pack" sold for about \$13. ☺

PLEASE SEND YOUR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ABOUT COLLECTIBLES TO: SCOUTING THE GALAXY, DEPT. 5W1, P.O. BOX 291609, LOS ANGELES, CA 90029. INDIVIDUAL REPLIES AREN'T POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS, BUT WE'LL ANSWER THE QUESTIONS OF BROADEST INTEREST IN THE COLUMN. LETTERS ARE EDITED FOR GRAMMAR, SENSE AND LENGTH.



STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

BY PEET JANES

X-Wing Rogue Squadron

HISTORY OF THE TITLE

X-Wing Rogue Squadron follows close on the heels of the novels *The Truce at Bakura* and *The Courtship of Princess Leia*, placing it six months to a year after the Battle of Endor. To date, the following story arcs have appeared.

The Rebel Opposition

Rogue Squadron goes to Gilstar, where an independent resistance faction trusts neither the Rebel Alliance nor the Empire. As Wedge and his team attempt to aid the Rebel leader, Elcor Loro, Lt. Tycho Celchu uses his Imperial (continued on page 71)

Bob Cooper takes a break this issue to allow fellow Star Wars editor Peet Janes to wax romantic about his favorite comics project, X-Wing Rogue Squadron.

THE STAR WARS UNIVERSE IS rich with heroes. We all know of their adventures and exploits via films, novels, games, and comics. But what of the unsung heroes, the brave souls of every species who risk their lives in the daily fight against Palpatine's Empire?

July 1994, Lucasfilm Licensing Director of Publishing Lucy Autrey Wilson asked *X-Wing*

Rogue Squadron novelist Michael A. Stackpole if he had ever done any comics work. He had wanted to, but things had never quite worked out. A short time later, he received a call from then-Dark Horse editor Ryder Windham. Dark Horse wanted to do an *X-Wing* comic, and Lucasfilm had told them that they needed to talk to Stackpole. "I thought that was very cool," Stackpole said. "Ryder explained they didn't want me scripting because they didn't know if I could, and they didn't know what my schedule was like — hideous at that point since I had three *X-Wing* novels to write yet." Finally, they agreed that Stackpole would prepare plot outlines, and that they would be prequels

to the *X-Wing* novels. "That would allow me to use up the back story I had generated before I wrote the novels."

Stackpole's plot submissions arrived, and they were nothing less than complete novel outlines. In addition to a wide-ranging knowledge of weaponry and warfare (knowledge which served him well in the crafting of his earlier *BattleTech* novels), Michael also knew *Star Wars* — and the Post-Palpatine era specifically — inside and out. "Plotting has always been one of my strengths, and the *Star Wars* universe has all these cool little corners that are fun to explore." But Michael was careful not to tread on the feet of those who would go after him. The outlines were constructed in such a way that a scripter's individual talents would still give much of the body to the stories. The process proved difficult at first, but has since become much more streamlined. Michael comments, "The outlines all carry with them a fair amount of boilerplate that talks about characters, worlds, slang, how to handle the dogfights, and the details that keep the story in the *Star Wars* universe. Beyond that, all of the scripters who have asked me questions have had points that made the story a lot better."

The result is an ongoing series of stories about some of the galaxy's greatest heroes, the "working stiffs" of the *Star Wars* universe. A compelling concept, to be sure, and, if the growing readership is any indicator, one that has as great a resonance with fans as the story of a wayward farmboy's star-spanning adventures.

Rogue Squadron has generated a great



“In his own way, Wedge Antilles embodies the ideals of the Rebel Alliance even better than Luke Skywalker.”

many characters both heroic and villainous. But Wedge Antilles, the mainstay of the comic, had already been featured in all three *Star Wars* films.

At one point during the filming of *Star Wars*, actor Denis Lawson was certain that his character had died over the Death Star. But George Lucas brought Wedge back in the subsequent episodes, and an enduring character was created. In his own way, Wedge Antilles embodies the ideals of the Rebel Alliance even better than Luke Skywalker. By having the character return time and again, yet remain something of a background figure, George Lucas turned him into the everyman; Wedge is a Rebel and he keeps coming back.

The series' second story arc, "The Phantom Affair," offered an intriguing glimpse into Wedge's childhood. Face-to-face with the man responsible for the deaths of his parents, Wedge recalls the fateful day: a pirate ship, refueling at the Antilles' station high above Corellia, makes a break when CorSec forces appear. The fueling complex is torn apart by Loka Hask's ship as it powers away, and young



Wedge Antilles can only watch as his parents evacuate all the other personnel out of the complex before they sacrifice themselves to save the entire station from a deadly fire.

Wedge then pursues Loka's ship in a deep-space-modified Z-95 Headhunter and destroys it. Unfortunately, Loka Hask, having been suited up for EVA, escapes, although the pirate is infected with a Corellian limpet, which becomes a permanent part of his grim visage.



Academy training to infiltrate the local Imperial garrison. Later, Elscot and her Wookiee companion Groznik join Rogue Squadron.

The Phantom Affair

The Mrlst Academy has long been known as the pinnacle of educational institutions, and the birthplace of many fascinating new technologies. Wedge Antilles and Rogue Squadron are sent to Mrlst to bid on a miniaturized cloaking system that would be invaluable in fighting the Empire. Unbeknownst to Wedge, the Mrlsti have invited an Imperial bidder to the table, as well. But this isn't just any Imperial; this is Captain Loka Hask, the one-time pirate responsible for the deaths of Wedge's parents.

Battleground: Tatooine

Admiral Ackbar dispatches Rogue Squadron to Tatooine to assist Winter's undercover operation. A long-hidden Imperial weapons cache has been discovered, and in the immense power struggle after the death of Jabba the Hutt, the entire sector is in jeopardy. This story is notable in that it guest-stars Bib Fortuna as a B'omarr monk!

The Warrior Princess

Representatives from the distant world of Etti come to Rogue Squadron in search of one of their own: a long-lost princess, and the only hope for restoring peace on their planet. The princess is none other than Plour, Rogue Squadron's big-boned gal, and not only does she have Etti's throne to deal with, but also a ruthless, teenage Imperial Moff, a civil uprising supposedly led by her long-dead brother; a royal court already filled with intrigue; and... a husband!

Requiem for a Rogue

In search of a missing Bothan spaceliner, Rogue (continued on page 72)

"There is no end in sight for the TIE-troubled top guns of Rogue Squadron."



Squadron travels to the aboriginal planet Malrev 4, where they discover a power-mad Devanorian who has taken control of a long-hidden Sith temple, and through it, control over the brutish Irrukline, the primitive inhabitants of the world. Wedge Antilles quickly discovers that the Bothans are no tourists, and perhaps they're not as lost as they appear to be.

AND COMING UP

In the Empire's Service

Rogue Squadron encounters their greatest foes: the Imperial 181st Fighter Group, led by Baron Fel. The Baron has been flying sorties for the Empire since before the Battle of Yavin, after having trained some of the best pilots in the galaxy (including Rogues Tycho Celchu, Hobbie Klivan, and Biggs Darklighter) at the Imperial Academy. Four issues (*X-Wing* #s 21-24) starting August 1997, written by Michael A. Stackpole, illustrated by John Nadeau and Jordi Ensign.

The Making of Baron Fel

The twenty-fifth issue of Dark Horse Comics' first-ever ongoing Star Wars title is a 48-page special that features the peculiar history of Baron Fel, the Empire's greatest fighter ace. This double-sized issue also features a double-page character sheet outlining the heroes and villains of *X-Wing*. One-shot shipping December 1997, written by Michael A. Stackpole and illustrated by Steve Crespo and Chip Wallace.



While Wedge remains the star of the series, many readers are fans of other members of Rogue Squadron, or even of the Imperial villains (and villainesses) that constantly challenge the greatest pilots in the Rebel Alliance. Loka Hask, despite his ugly manner (and uglier puss!), scored points with fans for his sophistication. Firith Olan, the crafty Twi'lek from "Battleground: Tatooine" is credited with enough *chutzpah* to play the Empire off the Alliance. But it was a severe young woman with a taste for power that really struck with the fans.

Moff Leonia Tavra assumed her new husband's post after his death, which coincided with the Battle of Endor. With Palpatine's Empire in such immediate disarray, the young woman saw no need to bother Coruscant with news of Moff Tavra's death, and became the youngest Moff in the history of the Empire. But perhaps the most intriguing part of "The Warrior Princess" was that Leonia Tavra got away. Will we see more of the beautiful and deadly young woman? "The comics allow us to create a lot of cool characters," Stackpole says, "and it would be a shame not to use Tavra in an upcoming novel, should the right role come up."

There is no end in sight for the TIE-troubled top guns of Rogue Squadron, although with the upcoming story arc "In the Empire's

Service," Stackpole, who has begun scripting the comics, begins in earnest a tightly woven continuity between the comics series and his best-selling novels, including the first comics appearances of Ysanne Isard, Corran Horn, and other popular characters. "Bottom line," Stackpole says, "I like to see myself as a problem-solver. The problem of keeping the series fresh and interesting and exciting is one I'm enjoying working on."

PEET JAMES WOULD LIKE TO THANK MICHAEL A. STACKPOLE FOR HIS HELP WITH THIS ARTICLE, AND CAUTIONS HIM TO NOT BE TOO HARD ON HIS ETHERIC RUDDERS.

Page 72, Cover illustration by John Nadeau from *X-Wing Rogue Squadron* issue 22. Previous page (center) a scene from issue 21 (inset) Wedge Antilles does some fancy flying. Above, the cover by Tim Bradstreet to issue 21.

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